DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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UTAH'S STAR ON THE FLAG.

As the day draws near for the admission of Utah into the Union, every preparation is being made by the national government to place the new star properly and harmoniously upon the national flag. Many people and newspapers have thought that entirely new flags would have to be made in order to provide for the additional star. But a few years ago, when the Dakotas, Wyoming, Washington and Idaho came into the Union, a thrifty administration provided in its rearrangement of the starry field a place for the remaining territories, four in number. As everybody ought to know, the red and white stripes of the flag represent the original thirteen colonies who fought out American independence, while the field with its white stars is changed from time to time to correspond to the number of states in the union, such change taking place on all official flags on the Fourth of July following the admission of the new state. The starry part of the flag as adopted at the admission of the foregoing named states; was arranged in six horizontal rows with room for eight stars in each; but as there were only forty-four states, there were blanks at the end of the second and fourth rows and at the beginning of the third and fifth rows respectively. The idea in this arrangement was that there were only four more territories to be admitted—Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma—and places for their respective stars might as well be provided first as last. The new State of Utah will be the first to verify this forecast; and it happens that her star will be placed on the official flag in the vacant space at the end of the fourth row of stars.

The chief depot for the distribution of flags is the Schuylkill arsenal in Philadelphia, and the month of May is the time the new flags are generally given out. This year, however, as the star for Utah cannot be added until the Fourth of July, and new flags may not be distributed until that time. Each of the eighty army posts is furnished with one large hunting flag per year, for the life of one of these (the Garles is usually but twelve months, by that time the wind and weather having destroyed it. According to the arrangement explained above, the quartermaster-general's office will merely have to sew another star on the field, and the flag will be complete. The army posts having good flags will send them before the first of July to the nearest quartermaster depot. The new star will be added to the extreme right of the fourth line, and the flag will be returned to the post in time to fly on the glorious Fourth. If, however, a requisition is made for a new flag, the flag sent will be the new one, with the forty-five stars. It will cost the government fifteen cents to furnish and sew the new star on every large hunting flag, ten cents for the medium-sized star and five cents for the small star. That makes the expense for adding the new star fifteen dollars for the large flags, twenty dollars for the medium-sized flags and twenty-five dollars for the small flags. So the coming in of Utah will not be very expensive as to flags.

"AMERICA."

The subjoined contribution to the discussion of the origin of America's anthem will be read with interest. The writer, as will be seen, corroborates in every detail the views recently expressed by the NEWS on the subject.

To the Editor:

Having noticed an article in your liberal discussing the origin of the American national anthem, I, for one, am happened and the thought has perhaps some additional facts which I am in possession of might not be uninteresting to your many readers. In a special interview my colleague, the late Rev. Dr. S. F. Smith related how he came to write "America." He said: "In February, 1831, I was poring over a German book of patriotic songs which I found at Boston and sent me to Germany, when I came upon one with a tune of great majesty. I immediately it over and was struck with the fact with which the accompanying National words fell into the tune. I saw it was a patriotic song, and while I was planning of translating it I felt an impulse to write an American patriotic song. I searched my hand for a bit of white paper and taking my quill pen wrote the first verse in full as it now

"I sent it with some translations of the German songs to Lowell Mason, and the next Lord's day I was told I had been sung by the Sunday school children at Park Street church, Boston, at the following Fourth of July celebration.

Dr. Lowell Mason was a great celebrity of the divine art in those days, being conductor of the Boston academy of music and composer of many sacred hymns and anthems still extant and now considered as standard in many collections of music.

Your correspondent remembers perfectly well the occasion when "America" was first sung as he was one of the Sunday school pupils of one of the Boston Congregational churches (namely, the Essex street church) who joined with the choir of the denomination in celebrating Independence day in Park street church, situated contiguous to the Revere House, Boston.

The journals of the city described the affair as exceedingly in the patriotic enthusiasm which was present and fervent in the patriotic strains.

GEORGE HAMMS.

WATER WHEEL FOR IRRIGATION.

The Alton, Iowa, Democrat has an article illustrating what is called the Frame water wheel, which is claimed to be a universal current motor, and as such is specially adapted to irrigation purposes, in lifting the water from streams without the expense of dams to form a head for the canals. The particular wheel referred to is intended to be placed in the Columbia river, where it is expected to elevate 70,000 gallons of water per minute to a height of thirty feet, for irrigating an orchard of 5,000 acres. The wheel is submerged in the stream, and is so constructed that while on one side the steel blade catches the full force of the current, it is automatically closed so as to furnish no resistance on the other side, and the friction is reduced to a minimum. The power thus adapted from the current is conveyed to the bank of the stream, where it is utilized in the operation of a pump, which raises the water to the required hight. If the wheel can do what is claimed for it, as appears likely from its description, it will prove of great value to irrigation, where the lay of the country along a stream would make dams and canals more than ordinarily expensive. A special advantage is that it raises the water at the initial point of the irrigating ditch, without a dam. The force of the current in the stream is applied from its side pressure upon precisely the same principle as by the overshot wheel, and is utilized in raising the water above the point to which the natural source of supply could elevate it for distribution by gravitation.

IDOLATRY IN HAWAII.

In a lecture delivered yesterday, Sunday, December 1, in New York, a Baptist minister states that the natives of Hawaii are gradually returning to idolatry. He ascribes this to the fact that the late Kamehameha gave religious liberty to the heathen religion, and that this was further encouraged by Kalakaua and Liliuokalani, from which it would seem that the common doctrines of Christianity are unable to hold their own against heathen superstition, their chances being equal. This would seem to be a serious criticism of a religious system for which it is claimed that it is so divinely constructed as to commend itself to the child as well as to the master mind. Either this is not true, or what is offered the idolatrous is not that superior religion.

Somebody has discovered that the heathen takes a few sticks and sufficient clothing, may be second hand, and forms an image which he invests with divine properties and calls it mamba-jumbo. Perhaps the idolatrous Hawaii have discovered that his Christian brother is doing pretty much the same thing, figuratively speaking. However this may be, certain it is that there is a palpable inconsistency on the part of Christian nations in their dealings with heathens, that cannot escape the criticism of the latter. Only a short time ago the New York Mail and Express told of the discovery to Birmingham, the very center of Christian England, of a factory where idols are manufactured and sent all over the world covered by missionary enterprise, from Tokio to Timbuctoo. The price of such gods varies from half a crown to $100 for a specially ugly one, "stolen," it is alleged, "by a sailor during the Chinese war." Most of these curios undoubtedly go to oriental bazars in order to supply the demand of unsophisticated travelers desirous of mementoes from their foreign travels, but it is asserted that the export to heathen countries for the purpose of idolatry is very large, and it must be expected that as long as the demand be supplied from the very heart of Christian civilization, idolatry will be kept up in spite of all the sermons of missionaries.

OUR ANTI-IMMIGRATION LAWS.

It is a curious and noteworthy fact that during the one hundred and nineteen years of American life as a nation, less than the last nineteen have witnessed the only real efforts toward the restriction of foreign immigration. Formerly our statesmen sought in every way to encourage the coming of the surplus population of other countries to our shores, and the new arrivals were welcomed with every manifestation of heartiness and gratitude. About fifteen years ago, however, the matter of shutting our doors against the importation of foreign labor began to be agitated in Congress with a prospect of success, the important consideration being urged upon public attention. One was that the manifest advantages and privileges offered by Columbia were so much more numerous than could be afforded by our own people and such others as were already here. The other was that there had been a great falling off in the morals and value of the immigrants, whereas the newcomers were formerly men and women of intelligence, vigorous in body and in the prime of life, and exercised an immense influence in the development of the country. They later were followed by a less sturdy class, aged, infirm, sometimes debauched, and not infrequently actually criminal, it appearing to be a general idea with many of the European governments that it was in every way cheaper and more effective to dump these undesirable elements into the United States than to care for them at home.

The first restrictive measure against improper immigration was framed in 1882. It fixed qualifications which should be possessed by the newcomers, placed a duty of 50 cents on each alien admitted, and sent back to their native land some six thousand out of something over ten millions who tried to get into the country. Three years afterwards another law was passed, the alien contract labor law. It made unlawful the assisting or procuring the immigration of any alien under contract to perform labor in this country; and while it was more sweeping in its provisions than the preceding law, it had many loopholes, through which almost anybody might escape except a few preachers. It was amended in 1887 and 1888, but was still defective. Then came, in the latter year, the famous Chinese exclusion act, which, say what we may of it, was in violation of all our treaties with China and would have led to war with any less patient and supine nation. In 1891 a law was passed reconciling the provisions of the act of 1882 and also of the contract labor law, with the enumeration of other classes of persons to be excluded, and with improvements in the administrative sections; and then came the latest attempt at remedying the defects of all previous legislation, in the law of 1893. It is still in operation, and while superior to any of its predecessors, it is regarded as ineffective in accomplishing all that was hoped for it.

The question is one that has therefore received attention from almost every Congress for thirteen years past, and it is still an issue. Among the many other bits of work cut out for the Fifty-fourth Congress, now in session, this is probably one of the least likely to escape attention and treatment.

DIRECTOR PRESTON of the U. S. mint may be a very capable and agreeable official when it comes to melting up gold bars and silver bullion into coin of the realm. But neither in his oath of office, his instructions, nor his precedents will he find warrant for the blunder made as a preface to his recent report, the said preface being a strong argument for a single gold standard. If the Republic wants Mr. Preston's services as attorney, as legislator, or even as secretary of the treasury, there are proper ways of obtaining them. As director of the mint, however, he is only required to obey orders; if he must do writing, let him make reports, not pleas.

EX-SENATOR INGALLS says that among many things to be grateful for one of the most important is that "the worst never happens." On this kind of a topic the ex-senator is an authority, and what he says is surely right.

THE DIFFERENCE between Henry Clay and John Sherman is that the first named would rather be right than President, and the other would rather write than be President.

A SEVERE blow to the silver cause of the West is the gold development at Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Two Lives Saved.

MRS. PHOEBE THOMAS, of Junction City, Ill., was told by her doctors she had Consumption and that there was no hope for her, but two bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery completely cured her and she says it saved her life. Mr. Thos. Eggers, 130 Florida St., San Francisco, suffered from a dreadful cold, approaching Consumption, tried without result everything else, then bought one bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery and in two weeks was cured. He is naturally thankful. It is such results, of which these are samples, that prove the wonderful efficacy of this medicine in Coughs and Colds. Free trial bottles at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

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