

This fact would seem to end the controversy, putting it beyond the ground of philologic evidence and leaving it only as a matter of faith, to the discretion of the reader of the Book of Ether to believe or reject the statement that "deseret" means a bee. But, fortunately, there is very strong evidence of the genuineness of the word, and faith is in this case supported by facts.

The Shemitish languages have preserved many roots of the original tongue. An evidence of this is found in the fact that the proper nouns of the first chapter of Genesis have a distinct signification in Hebrew and explain the reason why they were given. What is true of the proper nouns applies with equal certainty to common nouns. Many distinguished scholars have entertained the opinion that Hebrew was identical with the original tongue.

Supposing now, that "deseret" is a word handed down from the people who spoke the original tongue, through the descendants of Jared, it would be reasonable to expect that some trace of it might still be found among the Shemitish languages, retaining both a recognizable form and a similar signification to the original. If such a form can be found, it indicates the genuineness of the word "deseret" and the authenticity of the record in which it occurs.

We now turn to the Arabic language, the richest of all the Shemitish dialects, and find that one of the words used to designate "bee" and "beehive" is so similar to the word "deseret" as to warrant the conclusion that both have a common origin. The Arabic word referred to may be represented by the English letters *Aselet*. The meaning is given by any good dictionary. The first letter of this word is *ain*, which is no vowel at all, but a guttural sound for which there is no equivalent representation at all in English. "L" and "r" are easily interchangeable. A native of the Orient would probably pronounce "deseret" "deseelet," thereby pointing out the way whereby in the evolution of the languages the original "deseret" might have become "aselet" in the Arabic. That the word is still found in the Orient and in so slightly modified a form and retaining its original signification, is a proof no mere conjecture can invalidate.

The variation which is noticeable between "deseret" and its Arabic sister-word is nothing more than what is found in a great number of words, the derivations of which are known. The Greek *meler*, Latin *muler*, French *mere*, German *mutter*, English *mother*, Swedish *moder* are all the same word, modified accord-

ing to the genius of the respective languages. The Arabic *tha*, Icelandic *sa*, German *der*, Swedish *den* are the English *the*. *Tensum* has become "tent" in English but *telt* in Swedish and *Zelt* in German. Instances of this kind are numerous.

We have no doubt that, were the subject further inquired into, the word "deseret" could be traced very nearly to its ancient source with as much certainty as any other word of similar antiquity.

THE NEW MINISTER TO ECUADOR.

VERY rarely is the romantic or poetic associated with political appointments. There is, however, a slight tinge of both connected with the appointment of the new Minister to Ecuador from the United States. He is a young man of 26, and when his name was presented to the Senate for confirmation a week ago, it was unknown to Democrats and Republicans alike. But it is not unknown to Mr. Blaine, or to New England Blaine men generally.

Ten years ago, on the grounds of economy, the United States Congress severed diplomatic relations with the republic of Ecuador. This latter country reciprocated in kind, and for years has not figured in our diplomatic list. However, Ecuador was the first to make advances for a renewal of diplomatic intercourse, which advance, after some delay, has been met by the United States Government. Last year's Diplomatic and Consular Bill contained an appropriation of \$5000 a year for a Minister to Ecuador. No action was taken until last week.

The name of Rowland B. Mahony was sent to the Senate on the 11th inst. That august body as a whole knew nothing of the prospective Minister. It gradually leaked out, in the meantime, that he had a little political history. Mahony was a junior at Harvard College in 1884. That was the year of the great Mugwump revolt against Blaine. President Elliot of that college became an anti-Blaine man. He even got up a petition among the students protesting against Blaine's occupancy of the presidential chair. He even boasted that he could find a thousand names among the students to back this petition. Young Mahony, though only an obscure junior, yet stood high in his class, and was a general favorite with his fellow students. He came out in open and direct antagonism to his president. He contested every step taken to kill Blaine, and finally succeeded in totally defeating Elliott. It was thought at the time that Mahony's expulsion from the college

would ensue, but on reconsideration the authorities concluded that because of the young man's popularity the step would be too dangerous.

Mr. Blaine heard what was done in his favor. He became acquainted with young Mahony, and grew attached to him. This is the secret of the nomination. It shows that the man from Maine is not forgetful of his friends, and surely the average American will admire the spirit of the young student who revolted against the unwise, unjust and tyrannical procedure of the great College Don.

THE RAISING OF THE FLAGS.

THE school children had a pleasant time February 22, and the raising of the flag, with the exercises attending it, will help to increase that love of country and esteem for our national institutions which the better people of all classes and creeds in Utah desire to promote.

We shall, no doubt, hear from the Eastern press some sage remarks about "a new departure among the Mormons," and conclusions as to the good effect this novel exhibition of the Stars and Stripes will have upon "Mormon" children.

But we will inform our contemporaries east and west, north and south, that our country's flag is a familiar sight to every "Mormon" school-child in Utah. It has been a prominent feature in their gatherings, they have waved it themselves in miniature on many an examination and festival, it has floated above them in every town and city from the beginning of their earthly existence, and their fathers first flung it to the breeze of the Pacific Slope when they came to these mountain valleys in '47.

The name of George Washington, too, as the father of our country is as familiar to their ears as to those of any other children in America. And the statement of the "Mormon leaders," that "there are nowhere in the Union a more loyal people than the Latter-day Saints," is as true as the voice of heaven, and yesterday's proceedings with the evidences of repeated demonstrations for over forty years emphasize and attest it to all who are not blind and deaf to fact and reason.

DEATH OF ADDISON GREENE.

ADDISON GREENE died at his home in Newbern, Jersey county, Illinois, February 1st, 1892.

Many people in this Territory who have been personally acquainted with the history of the Church from the beginning of its progress, will remember