

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, \$2.50

Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, 1.50

IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, March 19, 1892.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE MEMORIAL

THE Governor has raised something of a breeze by his message to the Legislature in reference to the Memorial to Congress on the Home Rule bill. The memorial did not purport to have come from the Governor; it was from the Legislative Assembly alone. But since the document was formally sent to the Governor by the enrollment committee of the Council, duly signed by the President and Chief Clerk, it was not out of place for the Governor to notice it officially, and express his disapproval of some things it contains.

In referring to the system under which the Territories of the United States are governed, and to the special grievances of Utah in that connection, it should always be remembered that the officials appointed by Federal authority are not personally responsible for that system. Also that they cannot all be expected to view the matter from the same standpoint as of those who regard it as unrepugnant and oppressive.

It is perhaps not the right of wisdom, when petitioning for an improved plan of government, to arraign the power and authority from which the relief is expected to come, for abuses that have arisen through the exercise of that power and authority. This seems to be the opinion of the Governor.

He also thinks, with many others, that in asking for "Home Rule" in the manner proposed, there is virtually an admission that the Territory is not yet ready for statehood. Of course that is not meant by the memorialists. They merely defer to the views of the country on this point, and would rather have some relief than none. But the Governor is entitled to his views as well as the Assembly, on a matter that vitally concerns the Territory, and also the right to express them.

As to the growth and prosperity of the Territory under the influences and officers of the past, we think that although the progress entertained was made under those conditions, it must be conceded that it was in spite of them rather than in consequence of them that Utah has thus advanced. And there can scarcely be any question that as the Territory is now in a position requiring relief from the restrictions that bind her, a change in the form of government is a necessity and would be of great benefit.

As to what that form should be there is a difference of opinion. We agree with the Governor that statehood is the proper thing. But if, as he intimates, the country is not ready for this,

would it not be far better to have some approach to a republican form of government, if we cannot have its fulness, than to remain in our present condition which in some respects is akin to serfdom?

However that may be, the Governor has the freedom of his views on the question, and since the Council sent him the memorial of the Assembly, it became his right to treat the matter in his official capacity according to his own judgment. We do not regard his message as a "scold," and it was finally disposed of in a proper manner, being filed as a public document.

THE PRESIDENT AND AMNESTY.

A SPECIAL from Washington to the *Tribune* announces that the Attorney-General will advise the President of the United States, that he has full power under the Constitution to grant the amnesty petitioned for by the leaders of the "Mormon" Church, and that there is a disposition on the part of leading Republicans officials to recommend favorable action by the President.

If this proves to be correct, there will be no need of the Paddock bill, amending section six of the Edmunds act. Indeed there was no need for the passage of that section at all. It does not increase the pardoning power of the President, and could not take any of it away, because the Constitution confers it, and no act of Congress could limit what the Constitution extends.

The opinion of the Attorney General is exactly according to the position taken by the *DESERET NEWS*, when doubts were expressed as to the scope of the provision in the Edmunds act. We cited the clause of the Constitution relating to this matter, and showed that it gave the President ample authority, and that it was not limited to cases after conviction, but could be exercised either before or after indictment, for all offenses against the United States except cases of impeachment. As to the benefits to be derived from the amnesty if it shall be granted, we have already expressed our views. But whatever results may or may not accrue, the granting of this request will have a most excellent effect upon the people of Utah and will, no doubt, increase the good feeling which is growing up towards Utah among the people of the entire country.

RAMPANT CRIMINALITY.

THE American woman is making herself unenviably notorious in foreign lands just at present. The excitement caused by the Deacon sensation in Cannes, France, had barely subsided when another tragedy of a similar nature occurred in Japan.

The woman in the latter case is Mrs. Hetherington, maiden name Bessie Hughes, a native of Delaware, Md. Her husband, an officer of the United States navy, shot and killed Mr. Robinson, a Yokohama banker, because of undue intimacy with his wife.

The crimes of murder, suicide and

arson seem to have taken a fresh impetus at home. Within the past forty-eight hours the catalogue of these horrible misdeeds is truly appalling. To begin at home, a deplorable case of suicide occurred in our own city. Then there was that shooting affair at Ogden. In Idaho a constable shot a deputy U. S. marshal. In Wyoming a young man visited the home of an old lady aged fifty-four and outraged her. There is talk of lynching him. In New York Ferdinand Van Zandt committed suicide. He was president of a large mining company and son-in-law of Sir John Lubbock the great English scientist. A race riot in Kentucky resulted in the death of four persons and the fatal wounding of two others. A saloon riot in Indiana resulted in the fatal wounding of three persons. In Washington a man killed his wife, then shot himself, and so on goes the fearful roll.

But Chicago still stands first with the most horrible crime of all. Owing to the prominence and respectability of Dr. Scudder, who is now charged with having murdered his mother-in-law in order to obtain her fortune, and the evidence implicating other equally respectable and well-known professional men, the latest Chicago horror is something beyond the line of ordinary criminality. Truly the tide of criminality increases in blackness and in volume.

THE LOGAN ELECTION.

THE result of the Logan election is a surprise to everybody. The Mayor and other general city officers on the Republican ticket are elected by majorities of from 77 to 98, Squires for Assessor receiving the greatest, and Quayle for Mayor the smallest majority. All the Councilors are Republican but two, those from the First Precinct, and all the Justices but one, from the same precinct.

Both parties have worked hard and there has been much more party feeling exhibited during the campaign than conservative people on either side could approve. In addition to bitter and offensive remarks injected into the respective arguments, personalities were indulged in that were not excusable even by the fierce contest on party lines and on questions of public policy.

It is claimed, too, that by a trick which would only be looked for in the lowest ranks of political jugglery, a number of newly made citizens were prevented from registering so as to vote at this election. However, they were not in sufficient number to have turned the Republican tide that set in, and therefore this circumstance, even if as bad as painted, will not account for the Democratic defeat.

It is evident that there are some persons prominent in the political arena who have made themselves obnoxious to many by their extreme methods, and this may have had something to do with the result. Debates have been had, too, on questions that affect home industries, in which people are more apt to favor the side that appears to foster those industries than that which seems to be to some extent