

the route proceeds northeasterly to the western shore of the lake, to a point midway between its north and south extremities, where trenching will be resumed westerly for a few miles to the Pacific. There will be a series of three locks on either side of the lake because of its waters being so much higher than that of either the sea or ocean. The total length of the route will be 169 miles, and of this nature contributes 143 miles by means of the lake and connecting rivers, leaving only 26 miles of actual trenching, though the rivers will have to be dredged in places and this will be a very expensive performance. The total cost is estimated at \$100,000,000.

Four days of the week before last, commencing with Wednesday, were consumed at New Orleans by a national Nicaragua canal convention, the purpose being to spur Congress on to action in the matter. Subsequently the promoters have received a valuable impetus through the message of President Harrison. It is said that two private corporations are mainly interested in the scheme, and it is held that the vast interests involved and the certainty of enormous profits are sufficient to justify the government in farming out its influence and contributing of the people's substance to the end desired without further delay. Of course the fruit industry of California would be wonderfully stimulated, as would the timber traffic of Oregon and Washington; mining and fisheries, our Southern cotton trade with Japan and many other considerations point to the wonderful and immediate success of the enterprise from a commercial point of view. The rate of tonnage through the Suez canal is \$2, and at the same figure the Panama canal, it is estimated, would have an annual income of \$12,000,000—very good interest on the investment, one would think.

In this connection, two consummations are devoutly to be wished—the completion of the canal as a strictly American project, and freedom from entangling alliances between the government and the people. Through national aid to a great corporation we once had a great scandal upon our hands, a gross and continuing injustice was done to western settlers, and to this day the effect of the inflated power granted by Congress is felt throughout every department of trade in the vast region of which Salt Lake City is the center. It could not logically be otherwise, and it will always be so under similar circumstances. It seems almost like enunciating a truism or discussing a fundamental principle to insist upon the point that the Federal government is not a contrivance above and separate from the people, but an agency whose limitation of authority is the execution of their will. To select out a favored few and confer upon them extraordinary powers and unusual privileges at the expense of all the others is not only subversive of our system in itself, but to be disregarded as soon as asked because of the example noted. If an enterprise is a great national necessity—as the Nicaragua canal is and the Union Pacific railway was—the recognition and protection of the nation is all that the companies engaged in such schemes have a right

to ask for; otherwise, the effect is to make every taxpayer or license payer in the land an involuntary stockholder without being permitted to participate in the profits or the control. Let it be a United States enterprise with the government investing, directing and receiving the benefits, or let the corporations, formed to promote the scheme, raise the funds and control the business under governmental guarantees and concessions, all of which are not a very great mark in a country where we have probably a dozen men worth the whole amount required and a Congress whose willingness to go just as far in the direction of aiding giant corporations as the people will let them can scarcely be questioned.

### AS TO STATEHOOD.

One who derives his sole knowledge of local conditions from a perusal of the two morning papers of this city, would be forced to think that the community was wild with excitement, torn with anxieties, and in a state of the utmost mental distraction over the question of Utah's admission into the Union. One who uses his own eyes and ears and common sense, and who looks at things as they are, cannot but be vastly amused at the journalistic antics which would give this impression. For, as a matter of fact, there is scarcely a subject which has so little interest at this particular time to the community at large as this same much-buffed matter of statehood.

By this we would not say that the people of Utah are insensible to the anomalies and grievances that a self-reliant, well-equipped, freedom-loving commonwealth is subjected to under the territorial form. Nor would we give toleration to the thought that this community shrinks from the financial burdens and all the other responsibilities that accompany the full measure of self-government. None of these. But we insist upon it that not one person in twenty, who has anything else to occupy his mind, devotes one thought a week to the question which is receiving such exhausting and merciless editorial punishment from the cotemporaries above alluded to. On the contrary, the regular, steady, six-days-a-week, unimpressible, plodding part of the community is so thoroughly tired of politics and every political question that is calculated to disturb the present period of peace, that a distinct shudder is the only welcome which such a question can evoke. And, knowing that this is a matter upon which there is bound to be a violent difference of opinion—that no matter how many thousands there are who desire statehood, there are several influential thousands who are or the present determinedly opposed to it—they are willing to let it work out its own solution in its own way and at its own time. Everybody knows it is sure to come, sooner or later; it is ridiculous to expect that it can be forever delayed. But every sensible person ought to know that where there is a considerable element that arrays itself in opposition—an element, too, that aforesaid has had much influence with the powers that be—the boon cannot very consistently

be bestowed without a display of authority and a struggle that later could be avoided. We confess to a feeling of surprise that such opposition should exist; if we could remove it by persuasion, since argument seems to be without efficacy, we should gladly undertake the work. But it does exist; and as it appears to be one of the prerequisites that practical unanimity shall characterize the request for admission into the national family, we apprehend that the parties in Utah have yet to take a lesson in the art of "getting together." Our government believes so strongly in the doctrine of human freedom that it is not likely to drag a territorial community against its will into the Federal sisterhood.

We have spoken of those who may ardently desire statehood. That the Mormon people are to be thus classed we shall not attempt to deny. We insist, however, that they do not want it at the cost of a renewal of hostility, bitterness and strife. Their present condition is so great an improvement on that which has prevailed in the past that they are not clamorous to change it for something they know not of. They are used to waiting for the good things in store. Patience is one of their distinctive virtues, and in its exercise they can give all their neighbors many points. Their feeling is that a territorial form well administered is not the worst thing under the sun, and they know they can live under it and enjoy it quite as long as the rest of the community can endure it. When the latter are ready to unite in asking for an enabling act, the Mormon people will not hang back. Until then they are determined not to press the sore spot and irritate it, for they know that such treatment makes it only the more difficult to heal.

### A DEATHBED REPENTANCE.

The New York *Sun* says that Mr. Gould was deeply interested in the subject of religion during the last years of his life, and a little essay of his on the Atonement, which he wrote in a lady's album, is described as remarkable for its deep devotional spirit and orthodox faith.

It is doubtless true that when he found himself secure in the relentless clutches of a fatal ailment "the wizard" began to realize at last what a slight tenure we have upon this life and how short the connection and frail the partition between it and the one to come. It is absolutely true that he became poorer than many of the hungry and homeless prowlers who raised their eager eyes to his gorgeous windows and sighed with hunger as they thought of the grandeur and plenty within and went shivering along the inhospitable thoroughfare; he was poorer than they because in the presence of death which no amount of care and no degree of skill could ward off much longer, while they, seasoned to hardships and with minds riveted to the things of this world because of the want of them, had no fear because no thought of death. And he would doubtless have given one of his many millions to possess the natural appe-