

their fires and clothed themselves in mourning. At midnight human sacrifices were slain. On the wound of the corpse a rock was placed and a new fire was obtained by revolving a stick of hard wood in a hole in the rock. The obtaining of fire in this manner was looked upon as a promise that the earth would not be destroyed before the end of the cycle of fifty-two years which had now commenced. Allusions to this peculiar idea are thought to be found in the hieroglyphics in the outer zone of the stone. The bottom of the stone has two plumed serpent heads with human faces and the outer zone is but the bodies of these animals terminating in triangular points. This feathered serpent has been thought to represent the founder of the institutions of the people. By some elaborate calculations the year 1479 after Christ is arrived at as the year in which the stone was completed and set up in the great pyramid of Mexico.

For further particulars about this interesting subject the reader is referred to "The North Americans of Antiquity" by John T. Short. An Associated Press dispatch recently announced that a complete translation of the calendar had been laid before a congress of archaeologists at Chicago, and that the paper had excited great interest among those present. It is to be hoped that this translation will be made accessible to the public in due time, as the subject is one of the highest importance to all who take an interest in the past history of this continent.

### YESTERDAY'S CELEBRATION.

The celebration at Washington yesterday of the laying of the capitol's corner stone one hundred years ago, was an imposing and in all respects appropriate one. The features were all attractive and interesting, but among them all we single out one as entitled to special comment. Standing near the spot where a century before the first President stood when the stone was put in place, the twenty-second and twenty-fourth incumbents of that exalted office addressed a multitude of people who had gathered to do homage to the occasion, and the words that he uttered were worthy of the man, the station and the circumstances. President Cleveland, though possessed of a faculty of felicitous expression has not acquired distinction as an orator; but rarely if ever have the walls of the capitol resounded with words more eloquent, incisive, or patriotic than those to which he gave utterance at yesterday's demonstration.

The sentence, partly an injunction, partly a warning and largely a reminder to Congress of its duty to the people at all times and under all conditions, uttered with his face toward the halls of legislation and with unusual animation, ought to have produced a thrill and doubtless it did. We can recall nothing approaching a parallel to it, for while Jackson was often as sententious and significant in his manner, Jefferson as sternly reminding, Lincoln as rhetorically patriotic and Johnson as earnestly dramatic, none of them, we believe, ever so

felicitously combined all these in one brief sentence: "If the law-makers ever forget the duty of broad and disinterested patriotism and legislate in prejudice and passion, or in behalf of sectional and selfish interests, the time when the corner-stone of our capitol was laid and the circumstances surrounding it will not be worth commemorating." The full significance of the President's words can perhaps best be realized by those who understand the way things are going within the edifice whose corner stone was the occasion of the celebration. The Senate and House are deadlocked practically and for reasons as nearly as possible diametrically opposite each other. It looks so much like juggling with stern necessity that it is no wonder the President availed himself of the first opportunity to let the people know that they are presumed to deport themselves more becomingly.

### A LEGAL QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, Utah, Sept. 6, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

Will you please answer through your valuable paper the following:

A is a justice of the peace for Washington precinct, but not a justice for the city. A case of petit larceny comes before the precinct justice and the defendant is found not guilty; and a bill for the costs is handed in to the county court for payment. Now, should the county pay this bill or can they send it back to the city for payment?

Respectfully,

JOSEPH H. CRAWFORD.

From the showing made the city had nothing to do with the matter first or last. The county should undoubtedly foot the bill if it is a proper one; of course if, the defendant being discharged, it was shown that the proceeding was a piece of spite work or brought for any other purpose than the accomplishment of justice, the complaining witness should be required to pay.

### AN ANNIVERSARY.

The proceedings connected with the celebration of Utah Day at the World's Fair recall the fact that today, September 20, is the forty-third anniversary of the appointment of the first Federal officials for Utah under the organic act passed by Congress. The commission of the newly appointed officers was dated eight days subsequently—September 28. They were: Brigham Young, of Utah, governor; B. D. Harris, of Vermont, secretary; Joseph Buffington, of Pennsylvania, chief justice; Perry C. Brocchus, of Alabama, and Zerubbabel Snow, of Ohio, associate justices; Seth M. Blair, of Utah, U. S. district attorney, and Joseph L. Heywood, of Utah, U. S. marshal. Of these, two had been officers of the provisional government of the state of Deseret—the first government formed in these valleys. They were Brigham Young, governor, and Joseph L. Heywood, surveyor of highways for the state.

At that time the population of Utah numbered about 10,000 souls, exclusive of Indians. The Territory embraced an area of 225,000 square miles, being

bounded on the north by Oregon, which then included Idaho, on the west by California, on the east by the Rocky Mountains, and on the south by the thirty-seventh parallel—the present boundary line on that side. Since then Nevada and part of Wyoming and Colorado have been taken out of Utah; and the latter when first formed was considerably smaller in area than the state of Deseret, which extended to the Pacific coast and took in the port of San Diego.

The means of conveying information to the almost unknown West was then vastly different from what it is now. The news was not borne across the continent by the electric flash, nor was the mail carried by the swift iron horse. The stage coach was an equipment of the distant future, and even the pony express was not thought of. Letters would sometimes come across "the plains" in the weary months that it took emigrant trains with ox teams to make the trip, or they would come by way of California.

The news of the organization of Utah Territory was over four months in reaching Salt Lake City. Henry E. Gibson, now of Ogden, brought the tidings. When in Los Angeles he received a copy of the New York Tribune containing an account of the passage of the organic act and the appointments made by President Fillmore. He came on to Utah, arriving in Salt Lake City Jan. 27, 1851, and furnished to the DESERET NEWS the papers he had, thus enabling this journal to publish the important information. On Jan. 28, Governor Young, who had been at Ogden organizing the Weber Stake of Zion, was met in Davis county and informed of his appointment, and on arriving in this city, as the NEWS states in its record of the event, was received with "the firing of cannon and other demonstrations of joy."

The subsequent history of the Territory confirms the fact that it was a happy inspiration which suggested to President Fillmore the appointment of Governor Young as chief executive of the Territory. He was its leading citizen, and around him the people clustered closely, laying broad and deep and firm the foundation of a great and prosperous commonwealth of which the Republic may be justly proud. The generous treatment and hearty welcome which were just recently accorded Utah's deputation to the World's Fair at Chicago along their entire route is duly appreciated; yet it was an honor to which they were fully entitled as representatives of the founders of government in the Rocky Mountain region.

While glancing back on the page of time regarding this day, it may not be inappropriate to note it as the anniversary of an important event in the development of Utah's mining industry. It was on September 20, 1870, that the first run of crude bullion was made at the first smelter completed in Utah, that of Woodhull Brothers, located on Big Cottonwood creek, eight miles south of this city. This bullion was obtained from the ores of Little Cottonwood canyon. Other smelters were in course of construction at that date, and soon joined in an industry that has grown to large proportions in