

## EDITORIALS.

## THAT LEGISLATIVE PANDEMONIUM.

IN the course of the extraordinary performances during the last hours of the Nevada Legislature at Carson, March 4th, some of the members emulated the wildest antics and rudest ravings of the ursine and bovine creatures in the stock market. During a roll call, one Bartlett rushed up to the clerk's desk, seized the roll, and tore it to pieces. When Hogan rose to speak, Van Hagen said he hoped Hogan would be decent. Hogan replied, and Van Hagen took up a book, which was lying on his desk, and threw it at the head of Hogan. Van Hagen afterwards apologized. In the heat of the squabble, the Nevada "animals bellowed like wild bulls," and confusion worse confounded prevailed, a perfect legislative Babel.

After the Legislature had adjourned, says a dispatch in a western paper, "the disorderly scene during the last hours of the session was good-naturedly discussed next day by the participating members. The legislators separated with friendly feelings toward each other, and all sadly regretted the past disgraceful occurrences." Many of the members went, with their wives, by car-loads to San Francisco, to spend their money, speculate in stocks, and enjoy themselves generally.

The Legislature of Utah (and Deseret) for a quarter of a century past has been a model of decency, order, and decorum, yet Utah is "not fit" to be a State, or to enjoy the common right of self-government. The Legislature of Nevada characterizes its sessions by scenes of rowdy turbulence worthy only of the back slums of a large and densely populated city. Yet Nevada, with less than half the population of Utah, has been an admitted State upwards of a full decade.

What is the legitimate inference from all this, as to the tacit qualifications and conditions for Statehood?

## CONTESTED ELECTION CASES.

THE law of the 42nd Congress prohibits the House from making allowance for election contests. In the late House, on the present March 1, Mr. Smith, of New York, moved the following resolution—

"Resolved, That the rules be so far suspended that it may be in order at the time the sundry civil appropriation bill or the deficiency appropriation bill is under consideration in the Committee of the Whole, to move an amendment thereto to pay the expenditures in whole or in part of such parties to contested election cases in the Forty-third Congress as the Committee on Elections may recommend."

This resolution was adopted, and the Speaker explained that the amendment in view was to make an appropriation by Congress, both branches concurring.

In the amendment when presented to the House on the same day, thirteen names of contestants and contestees appeared for payment of their contest expenses, in various sums ranging from between seven and eight hundred to three thousand dollars. The amendment was further amended, as see minutes of the House, and adopted.

DEATH UPON IT.—That arrogant iniquity, the Caucus Force Bill, seems to have had few friends outside of the circle of its radical sponsors and supporters. Many staunch Republican journals were bitterly opposed to it. The Sacramento Record-Union says—

"When we behold New England, as we do to-day, condemning a measure like the Caucus Force bill, it would be a shallow interpretation to infer that she (or any other such community), saturated with the principles of American nationality—informed through and

through with the Union doctrine of Daniel Webster and Henry Clay—is going to sacrifice one iota of her ancient faith or dally with the dogmas that express her hereditary political heresy. The Caucus Force bill is a fraud, and the Republican party repudiates it, as it had previously repudiated the men who hatched it."

LAY ME IN A WICKER BASKET.—In this time of discussion of various modes of disposing of the mortal remains of deceased humanity, the following clipping will be interesting—

"A lady who signs herself 'Mother's Garden,' writes to the *Times* to 'add all the influence of a not quite unknown name' to an attestation in our mode of burial. The writer says that she has given orders that she is to be laid to rest, not in a close coffin, but in a wicker basket, in order that as soon as possible she may, as she told her little daughter, in explaining the first terror and mystery of death and burial, 'turn into daisies.' Talking and writing is useless (she adds) unless somebody does something. Let some enterprising undertaker invent this wicker basket, suitable for our last sleep, but with a suitable covering to guard against two difficulties which I think Mr. Seymour Harden underestimates—first, the widespread fear of premature interment; second, the frequent need that the poor cast-off garment of the most beautiful and beloved soul should be shut up immediately after death and before any arrangement can be made for even the simplest funeral. This temporary coffin could be easily removed at the grave side or in the grave, leaving the wicker basket only—earth to earth."

THE "CHRISTIAN AT WORK."—The *Christian at Work*, Talmadge's paper, manifests its natural proclivities by advocating a thieving raid upon the property of the Latter-day Saints, under the flimsy pretence of a federal crusade to put down Bible marriage. Says that truly "Christian" journal—

"If the President of the United States and the Congress would join hands in one prompt and decisive effort, they could soon thunder this national nuisance into atoms. Do you say such a crusade would be expensive? We answer, confiscate the property, and take the rich estates of Mormonism for governmental purposes."

There lies the "milk in the cocoa nut" in all these villainous crusades—it is the "property," the "rich estates" of the "Mormons," that the thieving crusaders are after. They wish to thrive by stealing the property of honest people. Give them the chances they wish to "confiscate the property and take the rich estates of Mormonism," and precious little of it would be left by those cormorants "for governmental purposes."

"Christians at work!" indeed! If this is a genial employment for "Christians at work," it is not difficult to tell who is their arch-inspirer and grand master. What did Jesus Christ say of such hypocrites? He said, "Ye are of your father, the Devil, for his works ye do."

MORE CORRUPTION.—The charge of official corruption has become so frequent in this country and with so good an apparent basis, that the reports of the same have lost the freshness of novelty, and it does almost seem that the common price of office is money, and that the almost universal object of office-seekers is that same filthy lucre. One of the latest outbursts of press indignation at this state of things comes to hand from San Francisco, in the *Chronicle* of that city, of which the following is a sample—

"Is the reign of corruption universal in our municipal affairs? Is there no department untainted? Is there no official, high or low, whose hands are clean? Office after office is 'investigated,' and thus far, if actual guilt has not been invariably

established, yet in every case there have been revelations of an unpleasant character. But of all the disclosures thus far made, none are more disgusting than those in connection with the administration of the Public School Department; the very fact that the vile extortions practiced were so paltry only enhances their repulsiveness. Petty thieving in the Coroner's office and in that of the superintendent of streets; embezzlement in the offices of the license collector and the assessor—these and the like belong to a class of rascalities which are by no means without precedent, and which, unfortunately, no longer produce that shock of surprise or excite that intense moral reprobation which would be their natural effect were they less common. But when facts are developed showing that positions as teachers in our public schools are actually bargained for and sold (the terms appearing to be for women \$125—\$50 cash down and the remainder in notes); that male teachers who make loans to school directors and to the educational brokers who transact the business between the parties are rewarded with rapid promotion; that a hotel waiter and a small ward politician have assumed to sell positions, and that their bargains with candidates have invariably been followed by prompt appointments by the board—when facts of this disgraceful character are established upon evidence apparently incontrovertible, we have such a revelation of low knavery and cold-blooded, remorseless extortion as no creature with human sensibilities can contemplate without loathing and wrath."

A GOOD IDEA.—Accidents from coal oil lamps are not infrequent, and when they do occur they are usually destructive and painful, and sometimes fatal in their results. A lamp burst from gaseous explosion or because of a blow or a fall, when lighted, is not only exceedingly dangerous to the person, but is sometimes the cause of damaging conflagration and much loss of property. Any good suggestion in regard to preventing such serious results in case of accident, is a welcome addition to domestic economy. Here is a suggestion of that class, being a cheap and easy means of preventing the worst effects of lamp accidents—

"A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* gives an exceedingly simple precaution in the use of kerosene or any other cheap oil. His plan is to fill the lamp lightly with jeweler's cotton before pouring in the oil. The cotton absorbs a great deal of the oil, and in case of accident the latter does not flow about, and can thus be extinguished. On one occasion his kerosene lamp burst, and a mass of flame jumped out; but, being in a compact body, he covered it instantly with a bucket, and with the help of a water-pitcher and a few wet towels extinguished it before the slightest damage was done. Had it not been for the cotton the flaming oil would have flowed in all directions."

EMIGRANT HEAD MONEY.—The *New York Herald* has the following sensible remarks upon that tax upon emigrants from other countries, called "head money"—

"The question of 'head money,' or charging the ships that carry emigrants a larger price per head for each passenger, came up before the Commissioners of Emigration yesterday. Any policy that impedes emigration is a mistake. We believe it was Mr. Justice Quinn who viewed with alarm the growing power of the Germans in New York; but we can afford to be more liberal than the eminent Tammany jurist. We want to invite, not repel, the foreigner, and it would be as well if we had no head money whatever."

English, German, and Scandinavian emigrants bring with them some particularly useful qualities with which Americans are not overburdened, among which are an inherited respect for legal authorities and for peace and good order in a community, an aptitude

for steady going labor, and for sticking to a place and building it up, instead of restlessly roving about from place to place, with the ever-unsettledness characteristic of many Americans. In fact this permanently-building-up quality is one of the most valuable in any people, and Europeans generally, and especially of the races named, are full of it, it is ingrained with them, bred in their bone and blood, and this makes them most desirable accessions in any new country.

"MEASURE FOR MEASURE."—Adelaide Neilson, "the Juliet" of the day, has recovered from her sickness and is starring again in the East in additional characters, as well as in "Juliet." The *New York Herald* says—

"Adelaide Neilson has added 'Measure for Measure' to her repertoire. She is the first actress who has attempted the role of Isabella since it was played by Sarah Siddons."

The latter part of the above statement is not altogether according to the facts. "Measure for Measure" was in Miss Glynn's repertoire, and may be now if she still walks the mimic stage. The writer of this has seen her assume the character of "Isabella" in the play named. Perhaps, however, our contemporary has confounded "Isabella" in "Measure for Measure," with "Isabella" in "The Fatal Marriage," in which latter character Sarah Siddons created such a profound sensation in her second and triumphant engagement at Drury Lane Theatre, in 1782.

Meantime, how is it this play has never been put upon the Salt Lake boards? One would think that a woman who could play "Leah" acceptably could play "Isabella" in "Measure for Measure."

WHITE AND BLACK.—They have an interesting case in the Probate Court, San Francisco, concerning the legality of marriage between a white man and a mulatto, resting on the law under the 60th section of the California civil code, which is, "All marriages between white persons and negroes or mulattoes are illegal and void."

The defence seem to rely on the allegation that the "mulatto" in this individual case is not a mulatto, her mother being but fifteen sixteenths colored, and that the daughter, Mrs. Milliken, "has at least one-eighth more of white blood than a mulatto has, and is by that one-eighth removed from the prohibitions of this statute."

PULLING DOWN "MORMONISM."—The *S. F. Chronicle* says: President Grant has "tried the army, the judiciary, and the Methodist Church as a means to pull down polygamy and Mormonism," and indicates that all these means have failed.

Now our enterprising California contemporary is at liberty to tell the world what constitutional right President Grant, or the army, or the judiciary, or the Methodist Church has to pull down "Mormonism" or any other religion, and, if no constitutional right to do that pulling down exists, what other right the pullers down have to justify them in their pulling down. Let us have this work of pulling down fairly ventilated.

LITTLE RHODY vs. UNCLE SAM.—The *New York Herald* is inclined to be facetious over the recent Rhode Island resentment of the overbearing and usurpations of U. S. officials in that spirited little State, and thus remarks—

"Little Rhody will not brook federal interference, and somehow or other war seems imminent between the State and the United States. We deprecate hostilities, first of all because the State is scarcely large enough for two armies, however small; though it must be confessed that Governor Howard's bellicose message is pleasant reading in these piping times of peace."

## OUR GOVERNMENT.

THE founders of the government of the United States, the "Thirteen United States," made to the world a solemn and unanimous declaration of governmental principles, and of the causes which led the people of those "original Thirteen States" to forcibly dissolve the connection of their people with the government of Great Britain and form a new and improved government in the shape of a federal republic in this country.

In that solemn and unanimous declaration by our patriot forefathers it is announced and strenuously maintained that men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them being life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, and that said governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

In order to secure these inalienable rights more completely to the people, the founders of the government of the United States concluded to adopt a republican form of government, a democratic-republican form of government. Strictly a republican government is a representative government, and a democratic government is a government by the people. But these two terms are often used synonymously, and with some reason, as in a government by the people, they must empower officers to represent them and execute their will. The government of the United States is not a pure democracy, where every political question is discussed and decided immediately by the people. But it is a democratic-republic, where almost all political questions are discussed and decided by representatives chosen by the people, some by the people immediately, and others by the representatives who have already been chosen by the people. Yet great national questions come back to the people, if they choose to demand it, and from their verdict there is no appeal.

In order that this democratic-republican principle might be developed to as great an extent, and as fully as possible the government of the United States was organized as a federal republic, a federation of republics, a republic of republics, the federation being a government of limited and definite powers, as all powers not constitutionally delegated to the federal government, nor prohibited to the States, were constitutionally reserved to the States, or to the people.

Furthermore, the United States government is constitutionally required to guarantee to each State in the Union a republican form of government. Territories are but inchoate States, or States in embryo, the inhabitants of which, however, have the same inalienable rights as the inhabitants of the States, although the federal Congress is very slow in allowing the exercise of this equality of rights.

This democratic-republican form of government is still further developed in the various integral parts of this federal republic. Within a State, and, in a degree, within a Territory, the people of each district, county, precinct, and city, have the right of settling the affairs of the same in democratic-republican fashion, by their own voices or those of their own representatives. Thus does the government rest upon and with the people, as it sprang from them, not only as a federation, but as to the various parts of that federation; not as an entirety merely, but also in the various divisions and sub-divisions of the one great conglomeration or aggregate cluster of republics, which, when well governed, according to fundamental principles, that is, when the beautiful and perfect theory is adequately resolved into practice, constitutes the best human government the world has ever seen.

But the all important question here arises, "Does the practice correspond with the beautiful and perfect theory?" This is a great question, and we must take another chapter in the endeavor to answer it.