UNCLE SAM'S BABY STATE.

A Chat With Governor Wells About Utah, the Youngest State in the Union.

Salt Lake and the State Capitol Building—Its Mineral and Products—Picturesque Dead Towns—Utah as a Money Maker—Its People the Richest in the Union—Its Gold and Silver Mines and Their Enormous Dividends—A Side Wheat Even the Farmers are Rich—The New Railroad to Los Angeles and the New Iron Regions Opening Up to It.

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Special Correspondence of the News.

SALT LAKE CITY, September 25th, 1896.

HAVE JUST had a talk with the baby governor of the United States. Utah is the youngest state in the Union, and its chief executive may be called the baby among the governors. His name is Heber M. Wells. He is a man of about thirty-five, although he does not look so old. He has a clear blue eye, a fair complexion, a high forehead, and an honest, open expression. He is a good talker, but is rather modest in his ways. Still, he has shown himself to be a man of much assertive force, and he has more power than the average governor of the United States. He evidently believes that a governor should do more than sign lattice of the peace commissioners, and he makes it his business to watch the interests of Utah and to help the state along in every possible manner. He now and then takes the state signature to task and gives them a lecture, and he holds a part of every board of state managers.

UTAH'S CAPITOL BUILDING.

Utah has not yet built a state capitol. Fifty acres on the edge of Salt Lake City have been set apart for the purpose. This land is at the foot of one of the mountains. It is high and it will make one of the most beautiful capitol grounds of the Union. Just now the executive offices are in what is known as the City and County Building. This is a magnificent structure of stone and marble situated not far from the center of Salt Lake City. It is surrounded by ten acres of beautiful lawn and it is one of the finest city buildings of the United States. It is built entirely of Utah stone, and its cost was more than $1,000,000. The governor's office is on the first floor at a corner of the building, which looks out upon the snow-clad mountains. The governor sits in a big arm chair behind a round table made of woods gathered from all parts of the world. There is no red tape about his offices and you enter without the use of a card.

A CHAT WITH THE GOVERNOR.

After meeting Governor Wells I asked him a number of leading questions about himself and his state. He was, you know, a bank cashier at the time he was elected to the governorship, and my first query was as to how it felt to be a governor. Governor Wells laughed as he replied:

"Well, so far as the routine of the work is concerned it does not seem to be very much different from the bank. My life is a little busier, that is all. The notoriety connected with the position here is very little as far as I can see. I was the governorship. I was taken from the bank and founded upon this pedestal and held up to the blazing gaze of the people. I have made a few speeches, and this is the limit of my official life. Ornery does not run in my blood and I hope I shall never master it."

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE A MORMON.

"You were a Mormon, Mr. Wells? I have heard it said that the Mormon Church is running politics out here, and that in others has appointed a committee to supervise your actions to see if the legislature did to tell you what to do. How about this?"

"That charge, so far as I am concerned," said Governor Wells, "is the rankest nonsense. If a committee has been appointed to supervise me I do not know it, and I have certainly received no communication to that effect. There was a time when I was said to belong to such a committee who came to me during the session and urged me to discriminate against Utah. I said a number of the members of the Deseret Mormons, who are Democrats, but I acted entirely on my own judgment and this state's experience had no more effect upon me than it would have had upon the rest of the legislature. The