

EDITORIALS

NEW MEXICO GOING IN.

WHEN the question of the admission of New Mexico as a State into the Union was before the U. S. House of Representatives, May 21, the vote was 160 to 54, three-fourths, in favor of admission. The speech of Gov. Elkins is said to have taken hold of the House, and secured its whole attention, and the result to have made a deep impression. So that the prospect for the admission of New Mexico is very good.

That Territory has the reputation of being the most thickly populated Territory in the country, and has good claims to admission. But it is probable that the population of Utah is fully equal to that of New Mexico, and in quality the population of the former Territory must be acknowledged to be immensely superior to that of the latter, Utah's population being almost wholly Anglo-Saxon, and New Mexico's very preponderantly Mexican and Indian. So that on that score the claims of Utah to admission far surpass those of New Mexico.

If New Mexico should go in soon, and there is every prospect that she will, that would be the second Territory, and Colorado would make the third, admitted, over Utah, all three possessing inferior claims to those which this Territory has to admission, and two of them notably so. Why should this invidious distinction be made? Why should the enterprising, rising, and prosperous Territory of Utah be thus persistently and designedly left out in the cold? We have never yet seen the first good, republican, constitutional reason, and no reason can be given, except the anti-republican, anti-American one that a State government would bestow upon the people of this Territory the common, inalienable, democratic-republican, and American right and privilege of local self-government. That is where the secret lies.

THE TRANSIT OF VENUS.

THE scientific world is greatly interested in the coming transit of Venus, and costly expeditions and extensive preparations for observation of that celestial phenomenon in different parts of the world are occupying attention in all civilized nations.

The transit of Venus is the passage of that planet across the sun's disk or face, that is, between the earth and the sun. Only two planets, Mercury and Venus, present this phenomenon to the inhabitants of the earth, those two planets having orbits within or less than the orbit of the earth.

As the planet passes over the sun's face the former appears as a small black spot, and by careful observations of its movements, and calculations based thereupon, the distance of the earth from the sun is determined. The transits of Mercury occur much more frequently than those of Venus, the former having a smaller orbit and a shorter year than the latter. The transits of Mercury are not available for the determination of the solar parallax, but those of Venus are. The solar parallax is the apparent displacement or deviation of the sun as seen from two or more different stations on the earth's surface, which stations are not in a direct line from the centre of the earth to the centre of the sun. This displacement or deviation is corrected by measuring the angles furnished by the observations from the different stations. The measurement of the distance of other heavenly bodies, and much of the science of navigation, depend upon the accuracy of the knowledge of the distance of the sun from the earth.

The earliest known recorded transit of Venus occurred in 1639, and was predicted and observed by Jeremiah Horrox, an amateur astronomer of Lancashire, England. The last occurred in 1769, and was very carefully observed in opposite parts of the earth, several European sovereigns having equipped expeditions for that purpose. The solar parallax as now received was then determined. At that transit there were fifty stations of observation in Europe, six in Asia, seventeen in America, and one in Polynesia. This last was at Venus Point, Tahiti, or Otaheite, and the observations were made by Captain Cook and Dr. Solander.

At the coming transit observations will be taken to verify the present determinations of the parallax, based upon the last transit, and hence the great interest manifested in this phenomenon by the scientific world.

The transits of Venus recur at alternate intervals of 8 and 105½, and 8 and 121½ years. The next transit will occur Dec. 8 of this present year.

Prof. J. E. Hilgard gives the following as the methods whereby the sun's distance is discovered—

"At a point in Australia Venus will be seen as a small black spot on the face of the sun, about one-tenth of its diameter from the northern edge, midway on the corresponding chord. This is what is called the conjunction of the planet. Now, to an observer at Pekin, which is 62 deg. directly north of the presumed central station, the planet, being between the earth and the sun, will appear projected to the southward of the position in which it is seen at the first station by about one half of its own width, the sun being at an elevation of 28 deg. above the southern horizon. On the other hand, an observer at the South Pole—which, if it could be reached, would be the most advantageous station for observing this transit—would see the planet projected to the northward of the first station by about the same amount, the sun appearing at an elevation of 23 deg. above the northern horizon. The apparent displacement of the planet, expressed in angular measure, gives us the parallactic angle subtended by the distance between the two stations, from which, by means of the known ratio between the distance of the earth and Venus from the sun, the corresponding angle at the latter body, and consequently, the distance may be deduced.

There are other methods of solving this problem, such as the observation of Mars in opposition, lunar variations, calculations on the passage of light across the diameter of the earth's orbit, etc. But observations of the transit of Venus are regarded as the only strictly geometrical and astronomical plan, and are the most relied upon.

By the observations taken in 1769, the sun's distance was calculated at 95,000,000 miles, which figures have more recently been reduced, by rediscussion of those observations, to 91,200,000 miles. At the coming transit, it is expected that the exact distance will be arrived at within 50,000 miles.

Prof. Hilgard gives the following brief popular description of the phenomena of the coming transit—

"A round black dot, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter to the eyes of those to whom the sun appears to have a diameter of twelve inches, moving across the disk near its northern edge in about four hours, is the appearance which would present itself to the observer viewing the sun through a black glass. Nor can the astronomer, armed with the most powerful appliances of science, do more than accurately map the path of the planet, and note the exact time of its various positions. Viewed from different points on the earth, however, the planet will be seen to appear on the sun at different times and to describe different paths; and from the differences of the paths so mapped may be deduced, by mathematical inference, the distance of the earth from the sun, which is our fundamental unit of measure for all celestial spaces.

"To ascertain this distance with the greatest attainable degree of precision has long been considered the grandest problem of the astronomer."

BURIAL VS. CREMATION.—A British medical inspector, Dr. P. H. Holland, in a communication to a London journal, opposes cremation as compared with earth burial. He urges that it will cost more to burn a body than to dig a grave and bury it; that the chief expense of funerals is in the attendant display, and cremation would be as liable as burying to this expense; that this

great expense might be reduced, and the unpleasant sight of frequent funeral processions be avoided by the corpses being privately conveyed in the coffins to the cemeteries, and friends assembling there to attend to the funeral observances; that cremation would destroy evidence of guilt or innocence of a second party in any case where the cause of death was suspected; that it would be expensive to avoid all nuisance by cremation; that well-situated and well-managed cemeteries are not public nuisances nor detrimental to health, but on the other hand are in effect ornamental gardens, much used as favorite resorts for air and exercise.

TAKING THE HAIR OFF.—The discovery of Anderson, of Scotland, that charcoal can be advantageously employed instead of lime to remove the hair from hides, is favorably regarded, after thorough trial, by different manufacturers. As the charcoal does not cause the hides to swell, a previous liming for two or three days is still necessary, but the charcoaling prevents any injurious result in addition to the action on the hair. The charcoal process can be carried on in the ordinary lime pits at a temperature of from 50° to 70°. Our five days are sufficient at a temperature of 60° to 70°; but seven to eight days are required at 40° to 50°. The temperature can be easily regulated by steam.

The following advantages, among others, appear to be generally conceded for the charcoal process—

"A decided economy of time, as well as of labor, since the subsequent operations are rendered easier and the tanning proper more rapid. The bran or dung bath may be entirely dispensed with. The liquids act uniformly without leaving specks. On account of the absence of disagreeable odors the new process is much more pleasant and less injurious to health. The leather is softer and better in quality, is easily worked, and does not tear out in sewing. There is a gain of one-half to one pound in weight of leather per hide, while the charcoal, considering the amount required, &c., is found to be practically as cheap as lime."

CUPIDITY OF CAPITAL.—A New England newspaper states that from recent inquiries into the condition of the cotton mills in some parts of Massachusetts, show wonderful prosperity. Dividends of one hundred and forty per cent are declared, stock multiplied ten times in value, and the stock of a bank doing their business has quadrupled in ten years. And yet, with all this prosperity, the late terrible disasters, like the flood at Williamsburg, arise simply from the avarice and cupidity of these owners, who revel in purple and fine linen.

THE NORTH.—Idaho has crickets and Montana has grasshoppers and Indians. The Helena Herald of May 21 talks of reliable statements that the Sioux, "the most troublesome, dangerous, and bloodthirsty of all the savage tribes within the boundaries of Montana," are marshaling their forces with the design of making a formidable raid on the Yellowstone and Gallatin Valleys, and probably on the Crow Agency. General Sweitzer, of Fort Ellis, has sent a company of cavalry to Flathead Pass, to be stationed there during the season.

The Yellowstone Expedition seems to have stirred up a hornet's nest.

HOW HE WOULD SOLVE THE QUESTION.—The Gold Hill News has a sage editor. That gentleman, commenting upon the Utah delegacy in Congress, hopes that the Delegate will be expelled, and, though not in favor of sweeping legislation toward Utah, says that the practice of polygamy should be stopped, existing marriages legalized, a fair distribution of family assets made, and the several wives play a quiet game of seven up for the ultimate possession of the husband.

ADMISSION OF NEW MEXICO.

Of the three foremost Territories, the three of which more or less has been said respecting their prospective admission into the Union—Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado, the second named seems to have now the best chance for early transformation into a State.

The first section of the enabling bill for the admission of New Mexico, passed by the lower house of Congress, May 21, authorizes the people of New Mexico to form a State government, which, when formed, shall be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States.

The second section fixes the boundaries of the proposed State as follows—North line, 37 deg. north lat.; east line, 103 deg. west long.; south line, broken, 32 deg. north lat., north-west along main channel of Rio Grande, 31 deg. 47 min. north lat. for 100 miles west, thence south to 31 deg. 20 min. north lat., thence west; west line, 32 deg. west from Washington.

The third section provides that the legal electors of the Territory shall be qualified to vote for representatives to form a convention under rules to be prescribed by the Governor, Chief Justice, and U. S. Attorney of and for the Territory, the convention to form a State constitution and accept or reject it by vote. There are also provisions for the election of representatives to said convention.

The fourth section provides for the declaration of the adoption of the U. S. Constitution, by said convention, whereupon the convention shall be empowered to form a State constitution, republican in form, with no civil or political distinction for race or color, except as to untaxed Indians, and not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States nor the Declaration of Independence; with a proviso against slavery or involuntary servitude except on due conviction of crime, one for perfect toleration of religious sentiment and non-molestation of person or property on account of individual modes of religious worship, and one concerning public lands and equal taxation.

The fifth section provides for the submission of such formed and adopted State constitution to the people of the Territory for their ratification or rejection, lawful voters voting pro or con; also for the returns of the vote and canvass of the same. If a majority vote for the constitution, upon being officially advised of the same and presented with said constitution and ordinance, the President of the United States shall declare the State admitted, without further action of Congress.

The sixth section provides that until the next general census the new State shall be entitled to one Representative to Congress, and provides also for his election and that of officers for the State, the Territorial officers officiating until the State officers are elected and qualified.

The seventh section provides that sections 16 and 36, or equivalent lands, in every township be granted to said State for the support of common schools.

The eighth section grants fifty sections of public land to the State for the erection of public buildings for legislative and judicial purposes.

The ninth section grants fifty sections of public land to the State for the erection of a penitentiary or State prison.

The tenth section grants seventy-two sections of public land to be set apart and reserved for the use and support of a State University.

The eleventh section grants the unowned salt springs (not exceeding twelve) in said State, with six sections of land adjoining or contiguous to each, to the State, for its use.

The twelfth section grants five per cent. of the proceeds of all sales of public lands in the State after deduction of incidental expenses, to the State for making internal improvements.

The thirteenth section provides for the application to the State of the eighth section of the act of Congress entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands and to grant pre-emp-

tion rights," approved Sept. 4, 1850. The fourteenth section appropriates the balance of Congressional appropriations for the legislative expenses of the Territory, for paying the expenses of the convention and paying the members thereof, under the rules and regulations observed towards the members of the territorial legislature.

GRASSHOPPERS IN IOWA.—people east of the mountains troubled a little with grasshoppers. When they have visited the State on the Atlantic slope as several times and for as many years successfully as they have Utah, our fellow citizens in the east will know how it is themselves. The following from the Council Bluffs Globe—

"Grasshoppers by the millions destroying the growing crops in the eastern part of the county we glean from the Delta. wheat fields of W. C. Barton. Robert Motheral have expected suffered from their depredations. They commenced on three acres Mr. Barton's field of wheat though they have gone but a way, they have literally destroyed everything before them. U. they soon develop their wings are carried off by the wind, Mr. will probably lose his entire crop. At Mr. Motheral's they are quite so bad, though there are enough of them to awaken apprehensions in that gentleman's mind. We hear of these pests several localities in this vicinity is to be hoped that the scourge not general, and that they not do any serious damage. Farmers in this locality are far from being easy on the subject."

ERA OF CRIME IN S. C.—Columbia, South Carolina, speaking upon the indictment of Gov. Moses, of that State, thus dolefully—

"What have we come to? We do not pay certificates, county commissioners' defalcations, the lost acts of the Legislature, banking and now an indictment by the Grand Jury on infamous charges in all matters in which the Government of the State is implicated. These things show South Carolina in a most odious light. The fit accompaniments of the process which is now going on all the State of selling the people's property for taxes they cannot should not pay. Infamy and rage cannot go any further. The government at Washington look at our condition?"

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTER.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.—An Office has been opened at Western Union Telegraph company, at Dry Canyon, Ophir Mining District, Utah.

A Curiosity.—This morning Brother John N. Pike, of the Ward, showed us an egg laid by a common hen, which, in form, size, bore a striking resemblance to a pea-nut. He took it to the Museum.

Missionaries.—The missionaries who have not yet started for fields of labor, can obtain all necessary information concerning road fares, etc., from Brother O. Calder, on application to this Office.

Ingenious Invention.—We seen, in the Z. C. M. I. office, ingenious invention, called double chronometer bank attachment, patented by S. and Greenleaf, Rochester, N. Y. consists of two independent movements, equal in workmanship to the best American watches. It is the combination of a safe which time it cannot be set to any hour, besides other advantages, we have not the space to enumerate. It is a contrivance certainly remarkable for its ingenuity.

Sudden Stoppage.—On Monday evening a couple of men on horseback were dashing along the South Street, and one of them seemed a good deal the worse for liquor, was shouting and yelling the top of his voice. As he was not paying attention to what was going, he suddenly ran af-