

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### SO FAR, SO GOOD!

All honor to the men, in and out of Congress, whose attitude, influence and vote have made possible the passage in the House of Representatives, by an almost unanimous vote, of the bill to confer statehood upon Utah!

All honor, too, to the patient, progressive, patriotic people of this fair commonwealth who have waited long years for the boon of self-government, so dear to every heart having the instincts of true Americanism, and who year after year have gone on piling up evidences of their sturdiness, their sobriety and their fitness for full sovereignty!

All honor, too, to those of our fellow-citizens who only lately have believed the rest of us competent and worthy to undertake the burdens and responsibilities of statehood; in so far as they were unselfish and sincere in asking delay, we honor them, and when in unanimity and considerable strength they resisted the striking off of our territorial shackles, we recognized their right, tried to appreciate their motives, and were willing to wait until their last lingering doubts should be removed. That the bill should have passed the House with hardly an opposing vote does but confirm the gratifying reflection that only through the desire for statehood of all the people of Utah, were the representatives of all the people of the nation brought to grant it.

All honor, then, to this influential class—now brethren, friends and fellow-citizens; to the original and the later settlers, who laid a broad, deep foundation for future stability and greatness, and have builded well and bravely upon it; to the honorable congressmen and their prominent constituents, whose voices have been made effective in our deliverance; and above everything else, all thanks and honor to Him who rules on high, who neglecteth not the least of His children, and who moves upon and tempers the hearts of men to the fulfillment, in His own time and manner, of His great purpose!

The News does not apprehend the proverbial slip 'twixt the cup and the lip in this matter of statehood. Of course only one step has been taken by the passage of the bill in the House. There remain the Senate, the President, and last of all the people of the proposed state who are to vote on the constitution that shall be prepared. We imagine there will be no likelihood of disappointment on this latter account. Neither do we think the President will withhold his approval of the measure when it reaches him. It would perhaps be too much to expect that the same celerity and unanimity will characterize the Senate's action on the bill as have been displayed by the House. Still, Utah's friends in that body are many and active. They will probably give ample time for its consideration, but they may be depended upon to oppose unnecessary delay and to fight defeat with all their might.

But should the unexpected happen,

and protracted postponement or actual defeat ensue, the people of Utah can give still another example of patience, and as cheerfully as may be they will endure a little longer. They have not waited more than forty years without having acquired some lessons in that crowning virtue. They are used to disappointments of this kind, and can stand them with much equanimity. In the highly improbable contingency that such may be their portion again, we have taken occasion to express for them the prevailing feeling of gratitude for such measure of favor as has already been shown. There remains but the pleasant duty of congratulating Delegate Rawlins for the gallant part he has taken and the success that has attended him. Following the bright example of (we believe) each one of his predecessors, he has asked for his constituents that which was their right as American citizens. The others asked in vain; to him has a favorable answer been given. In promoting and securing this he has worked consistently and industriously, and spoken eloquently and well. Able support has been given him by members of both, indeed all, the political parties, both here and in Washington; so that a patriotic Utah Democrat can include among the objects of his gratitude the Republicans; a patriotic Utah Republican cannot omit thanks to the Democrats; and both can unite in friendly recognition of favor from the Populists. With brimming charity and hearty forgiveness we note, merely for historical purposes, that the few opponents of the bill in the House hid their diminished heads on both sides of the chamber.

### LEO AND THE BIBLE.

The pope declares that the Bible is inspired in whole and in detail; also that where it seems to be contrary to science, there is either bad interpretation or a mistake of science.

To the latter proposition but little exception can be taken. Theologians have made many mistakes in their exegesis. And quite naturally, too. To understand the Bible correctly in all its details a vast amount of knowledge is necessary, embracing astronomy, languages, geography, history, geology, archaeology and many other branches of learning. All are related to the revelations of the Almighty, and they all aid in shedding light on the books that contain a history of these revelations. But all true science is progressive. New truths are discovered almost daily, excluding theories formerly adopted. A consequence of this is that much of that which was at one time given out as Bible doctrine has been abandoned in the rays of the new light furnished by the advancing sciences. Theology, too, is progressive, in full harmony, as the pope holds, with the other sciences.

But when his holiness maintains that the Bible is inspired in whole and in detail, further information would have been welcome. What Bible is

thus endowed? The Hebrew text, the Septuagint or the Vulgate? All can not be inspired in detail, since they do not entirely agree with each other. The Hebrew text, it must be remembered, in its present shape, is quite different from the manuscripts left by the inspired men or their amanuenses. Every vowel has been inserted by uninspired men, and learned scholars maintain that in some instances wrong vowels have been used, making the present text certainly not inspired in detail. The Septuagint, which is but a translation of the Hebrew, was not to our knowledge written by men who claimed inspiration. It is one of the most valuable versions of the Scriptures, but it is certainly not inspired in every detail. The Vulgate, by the Tridentine council declared to be the authorized version of the Roman church, is also a valuable version, but the original, the work of Jerome, is known to have been so corrupted during the lapse of time that revisions of it became necessary. That Jerome's translation and the numerous alterations afterwards made are inspired in every detail is a claim that no modern theologian can make in earnest.

The question therefore remains, which version of the Bible is inspired in every detail? If Leo XIII commits the church to the theory of verbal inspiration, he only proves himself less progressive in theological questions than in the solution of social and political problems.

### LAW IS A COSTLY GAME.

Everybody who has given the subject a moment's thought must view with some consternation the threat, if it is made in earnest, that the favorable outcome of a recent suit in Provo against Salt Lake City over the Jordan dam controversy, is but the precursor of numerous other suits of a similar character. The well-balanced community, like the well-balanced individual, dreads the resort to litigation if any other reasonable and satisfactory mode of settlement can be had. It is not only the expense of the thing, but the ill-feeling engendered and the suspicion remaining in the mind of the unsuccessful litigant that not right but shrewdness has prevailed—these are the incentives with most people to keep out of law as long as possible.

In the matter in question these deterrent influences ought to be the stronger for the reason that so many people and such enormous interests are involved. We presume that among all who have made themselves familiar with this old-time dispute, nearly every citizen of Utah county thinks Salt Lake City and county have acted imperiously and unjustly in forcing back, by the dam at the Narrows, the waters of Utah Lake upon the lowlands along its shores; and on the other side, that nearly every citizen of this county regards the Utah county objectors as unreasonable and extravagant in their contention. The whole question was not long ago the subject of a noted and most thorough arbitration hearing, and it was settled and confirmed, as everyone hoped, to the satisfaction of all.