

EDITORIALS.

NEW STATES AND POLITICAL RESULTS.

It is now tolerably certain that several stars are to be added to the galaxy of States before another presidential election comes around, the order in which such admissions will probably occur being—Dakota, Washington, New Mexico, Montana and Idaho. The first named is likely to come in as two States; at least it will be divided on or about the 26th parallel and the lower half rushed in with but little delay, it may be this winter. The Democrats in Congress seem willing for this, in fact it has all along been their claim that no opposition would be offered to admission if the division question were only settled satisfactorily to all parties; but the great majority belong clearly in favor of dividing, there would seem to be no further reason for withholding the coveted boon. Still, the population, even conceding the amount claimed—600,000—is none too much for one State, it being about equal to Nebraska, and insignificant alongside every other Western State, compared with which it is also inferior in wealth and superior in nothing save mineral resources and area. But they will have it two, and we presume that even if only the lower part be admitted at once, the subsequent Congress may let in the other. In doing this, of course, partisan influences have their weight, even though they may not control; for with a certainty of two strong Republican States carved out of Dakota, there is the correlative certainty of four more Senators of that political faith, the same number of Congressmen added to the rolls on the Republican side of the House of Representatives, and eight more electors to help out in 1892. This is considerable capital to gain at one swoop, and it is not all there is of it either; for with both branches of Congress in control, the dominant party can act with the remaining Territories (all of which were Democratic till the last election) as it did with the Southern States after the war—hold them in abeyance until they vote suitably and with indications of continuing in that way for a while.

Against so great an advantage for the Republicans, what have the Democrats to look forward to? It seems they have not much hope of controlling the House of Representatives; and with every branch of the government in the hands of a compactly united and enthusiastic opposition, their tactics for the olympiad following the fourth of next March could not at present be easily defined. On purely political questions, it appears as if there will be nothing to prevent the Republicans from having their own way on every occasion. Serious blunders on the part of the majority, which it may be readily understood will be carefully guarded against, would give the Democrats a chance to capture both houses of Congress two years hence, despite the new admissions, as several States that now have Republican Senators and are very close might elect Democratic legislatures and thus reverse the Senate, while a small gain in the House would turn it back to where it is now. In the absence of such blunders, the only hope of the Democracy would seem to be a wise and consistent policy in relation to all public measures; not giving up sound traditions or proper principles nor showing an inability to act because in the minority.

These questions, and all others pertaining to the conduct of the parties and the coming campaign, will of course be decided by the partisans on either side and not by the newspapers, however much the latter may suggest and advise. Public journals have become, as a rule, somewhat more independent of late and not disposed to pass over errors of their own side or to neglect an endorsement of virtue on the other; and it behooves any party and all parties to remember that while as such they may be beyond control, yet the elements of which they are constituted are approachable and willing to listen. These will decide whether or not the Republican party is to remain in undisputed control for the coming and another term.

"THE BIBLE AND LAND."

Few theorists have so quickly drawn the attention of so many people to their ideas as has Henry George. His doctrines respecting land, its ownership and taxation, and cognate principles of political economy, have commanded the thoughtful consideration of multitudes of readers, thinkers and workers. The civilized world is fast coming to feel that there is something wrong at the basis of its civilization, for gross injustice reigns everywhere, notwithstanding the boasted enlightenment of the age and the vaunted perfection of the science of law, which claims to provide a remedy for every wrong.

Henry George has sought to show

wherein modern civilization errs in its fundamental principles and some great truths glimmer among his theories, which, however, contain a great admixture of error, and lack the keys by which alone the truth in its simplicity and purity can be disclosed. As was to be expected, other writers are following in the wake of Henry George, endeavoring to correct his errors and improve upon his theories. The result is the accumulating of a literature containing a curious mélange of truth and error, acumen and ignorance, wisdom and folly.

One of the latest additions to this class of literature is a small book entitled "The Bible and Land," written by Rev. James B. Converse, and published by the author at Morristown, Tenn., a leading New York publishing house having rejected the manuscript. We have only seen a brief synopsis of the work, stating its leading ideas, from which we infer that on original line of thought has been pursued by its author in the treatment of the land question; that is, original so far as the literature of the world affords material to copy or elaborate. But it is apparent that the teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith have consciously or unconsciously to the author, found their way into his book, though mixed up with error. The fundamental idea of his theory, and the one which he holds to be the basic principle of all true political economy, is that the ownership of land vests in God.

In support of this proposition Mr. Converse appeals to the Scriptures, with a result which is, of course, irresistible to those who accept the Bible as being what it purports to be. This book, written in answer to "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George, and is intensely antagonistic thereto. Without an examination of the work itself it would probably be unjust to pass an opinion respecting its worth; but it is likely that its main value lies in its character as an indication of the drift of modern thought upon the subject which it treats of, and of the spread of the great truths introduced to the present age of the world through Joseph the Seer.

THE RAILROAD "COMBINE."

THERE is a cloud much larger than a man's hand gradually looming up over the eastern horizon, and unless dissipated by some means at present unknown and unlooked for, it threatens to overcast the commercial sky of the whole country. This is the proposed "combine" of the principal among the great railways whose lines or interests converge at or surrounding Chicago, whereby they will become practically one company, and to the extent of controlling passenger and freight tariffs aim to be altogether and incontestibly supreme. It is useless to point out the consequences to the public of such an arrangement; to do so would be to labor to show that union is strength, whether the same be for proper or improper purposes.

It is well enough understood that as against any scheme by means of which railroads or other common carriers between the State exercises greater power in the matter of charges than pertains to individual enterprises standing on their own merits, the inter-state commerce law stands as an insurmountable barrier; but capital, ever on the alert and always able to procure from without such ability as it has not within, is not prone to stopping at such discouragements as hostile legislation, and where unsatisfactory enactments cannot be set aside a path must be made around them. With such an object in view, a number of the magnates have recently been engaging in a confidential conference whose object was and is rendering so much of the inter-state law as conflicts with their interests nugatory—not directly, by overturning in the courts, but indirectly, by observing the letter and avoiding the spirit. "If we can't pool interests," they say in effect, "we can form a 'trust' as other business enterprises are permitted to do, and thus by acting as one company, the law will not reach our acts; for surely, we can do as we please with what belongs to us when there is no competition. We thus become one and merely divide our earnings in proportion to our respective investments in the trust; we do not pool, but under another name we accomplish the same results." This scheme is entitled to consideration as being ingenious, if it have no other merit.

According to our dispatches the territory to be covered by this colossal system does not extend to Utah, that is, geographically. But for all practical purposes it might as well; for, reaching to Colorado, it necessarily takes in all our eastern traffic, and like the protective tariff, the enhanced rates will be added to all freights transmitted outside the circle, and this will have to be met the same as though it were exacted here first-handed. If freight comes up to our region bearing the enhanced tariff which has been imposed by the transmission beyond it, it is scarcely probable that the carriers in the intermediate scope of country could or would charge less in order that the cost to the shipper would not be advanced; on the contrary, they would be more likely to act in sympathy with their connections if any change were made at all; so that in

any event the Territories generally, and this one particularly, will be decidedly "in for it."

The claim seems to be put forward that the railroads must do something to protect themselves, thus conveying the idea that they are not prosperous. To those who are even tolerably informed and ordinarily watchful, such claims are very diaphanous, and instead of eliciting sympathy and establishing justification, as it is of course intended they should, will be more likely to inspire a feeling of increasing and more determined opposition. All railroads are paying enterprises; they have in many instances been paying so much that legislation has been invoked many times to curtail their gains to a limit corresponding with the primal and paramount idea of business quality. The inter-state law is not the first blow they have received by a great many, but it is the first in the direction of regulating traffic between States. Its object was not the oppression of legitimate enterprise, but the protection of those who have to pay tribute to enterprises. It, and all similar legislation, has been based upon the broad principle of equal rights to all sides. Most of the roads have had assistance of one kind or another in the shape of gifts of land, bonuses of various kinds, or favorable legislation, all of which came from the people, and they all depend upon those from whom these favors have been received for their subsistence. It would thus appear that their proper office is that of servants rather than masters, and it was for the purpose of restraining their tendency in the direction of the latter that the supreme law-making power interposed and called a halt; and the present attempt to evade its regulations will probably be met with some kind of organized opposition, prompt and decisive.

The local companies have not shown much of such a tendency as that recorded above; on the contrary, they are generally fair and considerate.

THE REMNANTS OF ISRAEL.

MANY of our readers have been deeply interested in the remarkable progress made by the Elders of the Church in bringing the natives of some of the islands of the Pacific to a knowledge of the Gospel. Of late years the conversion of the Maories of New Zealand has been phenomenal. The work among that race seemed to open up suddenly and has been spreading ever since, while, as a rule, the message has been rejected, with comparatively few exceptions, by the white population. The intelligence from the Samoan Islands mission, presided over by Elder Joseph H. Dean, is of a very encouraging character.

There is scarcely room for doubt as to the origin of the peoples who inhabit these isles of the Pacific. Their traditions, manners, customs and peculiarities indicate that the source from which they sprang was identical with that of the aborigines of this continent, a branch of the house of Joseph, with a mixture of that of Judah. The Book of Mormon tells of companies of emigrants leaving the western shore of the continent in ships and settling upon other lands, and the inhabitants of numbers of the Islands of the Pacific Ocean are doubtless the remnants left of those who thus departed from the chosen country to which Lehi and his colony were led by the hand of God.

The reception of the Gospel message by any of the remnants of the tribes of Israel is a significant sign of the times. These movements are but the precursors of similar operations on a more extended scale, for the Lord, it may be confidently anticipated, will, before long, turn His face towards all the remnants of His ancient people. This is to take place when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. That fulfillment will be contemporaneous with their rejection of the Gospel. The closing of those times will necessarily be somewhat gradual. Any person who observes closely the progress of this work can see that the Gentiles are by degrees rejecting the Gospel as revealed anew in this age, and as they close their ranks against it, it is but natural, according to the gradually progressive character of the work of God in all its phases, that the opening of the way for Israel shall be of the same kind of development. The closing and opening progress is in about the same ratio.

This is according to the present aspect of events. These are some of the conditions that encourage the faithful and true Latter-day Saint. Although clouds may overhang and temporarily darken one part of the religious landscape, the sun shines with genial brightness on others. The more cheerful conditions inspire him with the hope that the whole sky will in due time be cleared, and the righteous rejoice in the liberty of truth, which maketh free.

Those remnants of the ancient tribes of Israel are wonderfully worked upon when they hear the Gospel of Christ preached in its fullness. To them it sounds like a familiar story which they had forgotten, but which is revived in their memories. Those who embrace it, as a rule, fulfill in part at least, the predictions concerning them in that wonderful record of their fathers—the Book of Mormon. In this connection we introduce a quotation from the 30th

chapter of the 11 book of Nephi (page 122):

"3. And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

4. And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out of Jerusalem; and that they are descendants of the Jews.

5. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

6. And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and not many generations shall pass away among them, save they shall be a white and delightful people."

DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMIC.

THE newspapers have said but little about the prevalence of diphtheria, over considerable areas in the north-western states, but as a matter of fact, the ravages of that terrible disease are so much more extensive and deadly than were those of yellow fever in Florida, last summer, as to make the latter scourge seem comparatively insignificant. Such is the statement of a Chicago paper. The same journal publishes a scientific article, which describes what are supposed to be the causes of the disease, its symptoms, and the treatment which should be followed in combating it. The article states that in the present epidemics, death does not, as a rule, result from suffocation, but from a failure of the heart. Here is the great danger. The throat symptoms are extremely slight, until the child is almost dead. The diphtheritic patch present on the throat, tonsils and palate are so faint in many of these fatal cases as to escape attention until the sudden collapse of the child demands an explanation, which is found in a grayish patch. The peculiar throat odor which frequently reveals diphtheria has been absent in many of these cases. The constitutional symptoms are often absent until the sudden final collapse.

The article, in endeavoring to account for the epidemic, says it is probably due to the strain put upon the drainage by the abundant rainfall and the resultant interference with outflow. The best method of checking the spread of the disease would be to see that the house drains are in proper condition. The following preventive measures are recommended:

"In many cases drain regulation will not be feasible. In those cases, as well as in those where it is feasible, disinfection of all sewer outlets and toilets by chlorinated lime or solutions of chlorinated soda will be an excellent means of preventing the entrance of a diphtheritic element or depressing effects of sewer gas, which, while not itself causing the disease, so weakens the heart that the chief effects of diphtheria are localized there."

From this paragraph it would inferentially appear that sewerage is by no means a specific against diphtheria, unless, in connection therewith, other precautions are taken.

The following suggestions respecting this deadly malady seem to embody an amount of scientific truth and good common sense sufficient to justify their reproduction here:

"The earliest symptoms of the disease are indistinguishable from those of an ordinary sore throat; indeed, the constitutional symptoms of the latter often exceed them in severity. In the event of sore throat occurring in a child in a neighborhood where diphtheria is prevalent, the child's throat should be carefully examined, and if a whitish-gray patch be observed on the tonsils or palate or elsewhere, this should be touched with a pluch of sulphur, or where this is not feasible, a few drops of tincture of iodine should be poured on a handkerchief and held before the mouth to inhale the vapor while the physician is sent for. The child's strength should be kept up with milk, or, preferably, kumys, frequently given. Strong coffee is also of great value in sustaining the heart. The child should be isolated from all other children. Visitors should, if possible, not be allowed and should be prevented from kissing it. The Princess Alice lost her life by kissing a diphtheritic child.

Cats, dogs, fowls, and rabbits should be kept out of the room, since these frequently convey the disease. There should be a small quantity of sulphur burned from time to time in the sick chamber. Everything which comes from the child should be disinfected. It would be well also to fumigate the apartment in which the child was first taken sick. The child's food should be frequently given and be of greatly nutritious quality. The spread of diphtheria can be readily checked by isolating for a short time in a room by itself each child which suffers from a sore throat during a diphtheria epidemic.

Children during such an epidemic should be forbidden to indulge in indiscriminate kissing, whether of adults or children. The symptoms of the present malignant epidemic are slight fever, slight swelling of the glands of the throat, and sudden exhaustion. All these are indistinguishable from ordinary sore throat. Prevention on the lines already laid down gives better results than any treatment. The physician should be called early in cases of sore throat in a diphtheritic neighborhood."

DEATH BY ELECTRICITY.

THE State of New York is about to enter upon a novel experiment in relation to the disposition of its capital criminals. Like every other State and every organized Territory except Utah, the present mode of inflicting the death penalty is by hanging; but the last Legislature of the Empire State concluded to take a step in advance and leave this relic of barbarism for a more humane and scientific plan.

Various devices were suggested, but electricity was at last agreed upon, and after this month the victims of the law whose lives are to be taken will not be subjected to strangulation nor to publicty.

The law was not as comprehensive or exact as it should have been, as the plans and means by which the electric fluid was to be applied were left to a commission, composed of legal and medical men, and a plan was agreed upon a few days ago. The adoption of the plan by them makes it the law, and all convicted murderers, whose crimes are committed on or after January 1 next, will be sentenced to execute their crimes by such means. These doomed men will be fastened firmly to a table or chair covered with a non-conducting substance, probably rubber, the back of his head encased in a leather sheath; the positive electrode will be applied to the back of the neck, and the negative to the top of the head, these being connected with a dynamo generator of at least 3000 volts power, and the circuit will remain open until the fatal moment arrives, when it can be closed by means of a button or other device, and when this is done all is over; death is instantaneous and painless. The electric current passes through the brain and nerve tissues at once, completely paralyzing them and destroying consciousness and life in much less time than the twinkling of an eye. There will be great interest in the first execution under the new law, especially on the part of the subject of it.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S message—which appeared in full in yesterday's News—is one of the ablest state papers of its class ever offered for the perusal of the nation since the establishment of the Republic. A careful examination of it will disclose to the unprejudiced reader a preponderance of statesmanship and unadulterated patriotism, while there is no straining for political effect. He soars above the mere politician, who is unable to understand him, because he speaks with unequivocal language. His utterances have no uncertain sound; he believes he is right and stays by his position because of his conviction. Such men are not only not comprehended by politicians, but the latter cannot use nor control them, and therefore they can scarcely ever forgive them.

The introductory part of the message is one of the strongest pleas for justice—the essence of all government—not for himself but for the nation, ever penned. Because its writer perceives a powerful tide running against the maintenance of equality before the law, with the intuitive perception of the true statesman, he also sees trouble approaching; hence his plea for adherence to the principles embodied in the constitution, departure from which means ruin to the country. He points with burning finger to the growing tendency to amass immense fortunes at the sacrifice of principle, creating classes with such a wide divergence of conditions and interests as to threaten the existence of the nation. A powerful and wealthy minority insist upon the protective power of the government being thrown around them and their interests, while they contend that they will look after the poorer classes. Thus is equality before the law destroyed in favor of the rich as against the poor. The effect of this condition is inevitable—the growth of discontent among the masses. This means the disruption of society, because, as very properly remarked by Mr. Cleveland, the existence of the Republic depends upon the patriotism and contentment of the people. The protection and fostering of monopolies, combines and trusts by the government and the relegation to a considerable extent of the care of the farmer and laborer to the rich, will cause discontent to increase in the land, and out of that growth must come disturbances that will severely shake the nation.

That President Cleveland clearly perceives the present drift of affairs and the consequent dangers that are threatening, is plain to the close observer. The only room for difference