

# THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

## ASHLEY'S BILL.

A few days ago it was stated in our telegraphic dispatches that Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, had introduced a Bill into the House of Representatives for the dividing of Utah Territory among her neighbors. To-day we give the leading features of his Bill as we find it reported in the Congressional Globe.

We do not publish it because of its merits or demerits; but to preserve it on our records that the character of men who are called statesmen may be known.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, reported back from the Committee on the Territories a bill (H. F. No. 1625) concerning the boundaries of the States of Nevada, Minnesota, and Nebraska, and the Territories of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming.

The bill, which was read, provides in the first section that there be added to the State of Nevada all that extent of territory lying within the following boundaries, to-wit: commencing at a point formed by the intersection of the one hundred and fourteenth degree of longitude west from Greenwich with the Colorado river; thence up the channel of said river to its intersection with the one hundred and thirteenth degree of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north along said degree of longitude to its intersection with the forty-first degree of north latitude; thence east on said degree to a point in Great Salt Lake midway between Antelope Island and the eastern shore of said lake; thence northwesterly on a line through said lake midway between Antelope and Fremont Islands and the eastern shore of said lake to Bear River bay; thence up the channel of said Bear river to the mouth of the Malad river; thence up the channel of said river to its intersection with the forty-second degree of north latitude; thence west along said forty-second degree of north latitude to the eastern line of the State of Nevada. This transfer is not to take effect until the Legislature of the State of Nevada accepts the same.

The second section would give to the State of Minnesota a portion of the Territory of Dakota about a degree north and south and about four degrees east and west. This is of no special interest to us or our readers. The third section would give another slice of Dakota to Nebraska, and that Territory would disappear from the map. The fourth section interferes with the present boundaries of Idaho, and increases the territorial area of Montana.

The fifth section enacts that there be added to and made a part of the Territory of Colorado all that extent of country lying within the following boundary, to-wit: commencing at a point formed by the intersection of the one hundred and ninth degree of longitude west from Greenwich with the thirty-seventh degree of north latitude, being the southwestern boundary of the Territory of Colorado; thence west along said thirty-seventh degree of north latitude to its intersection with the channel of the Colorado river; thence up the channel of said river to its intersection with the one hundred and twelfth degree of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north along said one hundred and twelfth degree to its intersection with the thirty-ninth degree of north latitude; thence east on said degree to its intersection with the one hundred and eleventh degree of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north along said one hundred and eleventh degree to its intersection with the forty-first degree of north latitude; thence east along said forty-first degree of north latitude to its intersection with the one hundred and ninth degree of longitude, being the present northwestern boundary of Colorado.

The sixth section provides that there be added to and made a part of the Territory of Wyoming all that extent of territory lying within the following boundaries, to-wit: commencing at a point formed by the intersection of the one hundred and eleventh degree of longitude west from Greenwich with the forty-first degree of north latitude; thence west along said forty-first degree of north latitude to a point in Great Salt Lake, midway between Antelope island and the eastern shore of said lake; thence in a northwesterly direction on a line midway between Antelope and Fremont islands and the eastern shore of said lake to Bear River bay; thence northeasterly to the mouth of Bear river; thence up the channel of said river to the mouth of Malad river; thence up the channel of said Malad river to its intersection with the one hundred and twelfth degree thirty minutes longitude west from Greenwich; thence north along said one hundred and twelfth degree and thirty minutes to its intersection with the channel of Snake river; thence up the channel of said Snake river to its intersection with the one hundred and twelfth degree of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north along said one hundred and twelfth degree to its intersection with the crest of the Rocky mountains; thence in an easterly direction along the summit of said mountains to the one hundred and tenth degree

and thirty minutes longitude west from Greenwich; thence due east to the one hundred and tenth degree of longitude west from Greenwich; thence north along said one hundred and tenth degree to its intersection with the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; thence east along said forty-fifth degree of north latitude to its intersection with the one hundred and second degree of longitude west from Greenwich; thence south along said one hundred and second degree to its intersection with the forty-first degree of north latitude; thence west along said forty-first degree of north latitude to the place of beginning. It is provided that all that territory included within this boundary which now forms a part of the State of Nebraska shall not form part of the Territory of Wyoming until the Legislature of the State of Nebraska consents thereto.

The seventh section provides that the river which flows through the Territories of Idaho and Washington into the Columbia river, called Snake river, shall hereafter be known and designated as Oregon river; and that the river which flows through that part of Utah hereby added to the Territory of Colorado, called Green river, shall hereafter be known and designated as Colorado river.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. I desire to say, Mr. Speaker, that this bill proposes no increase of the expenditures of the Government, but paves the way for the decrease of those expenditures of the Territories. It creates no new offices. The Senators and Representatives from the States immediately interested in this change of boundary are in favor of the bill. The Delegate from the Territory of Wyoming is in favor of it.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois. I should like to know who the Delegate from the Territory of Wyoming is. [Laughter.]

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. I mean the gentleman claiming a seat as Delegate, and whose credentials were presented and referred the other day. The bill is not to take effect, so far as the change of boundary is concerned, except upon acceptance of the territory transferred by the States of Nevada, Minnesota, and Nebraska respectively.

In my judgment this bill will make the best disposition which can be made of the Mormon question, by reducing the territorial area of the prospective State, thus giving the Mormon community notice that no State government will ever be organized there by our consent; and that so soon as the population in the adjacent organized States and Territories shall be able to take care of this population, which, voting as a unit, has persistently for fifteen years defied the Government of the United States and for eight years flagrantly disobeyed its laws, the control of the affairs there shall be given to the "Gentile" population. This was the motive which prompted the committee in reporting the bill, so that in the great central or mountain State of this country there should be territorial area enough when they come to organize State governments to have a population enough at least for one Representative, and the States might not be multiplied out of Territories of the size of Utah with small populations, but that the area might be so extended that at the beginning they shall have population enough for one member and a prospective population for more. I desire to put the bill on its passage.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois. I ask the gentleman to hear me a moment. I have had but a few minutes to look at this bill. From the reading of it, and from the statement of the gentleman, it seems to be a bill to dismember Utah Territory. I merely desire to suggest that as the Delegate from that Territory is not here, being detained by sickness, it seems to me it would be but fair to postpone it, until he can be heard. The people who sent him here have a great deal of interest in this measure, and I suggest that it be postponed so that it can be reached at a given time hereafter.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. In reply to the gentleman's suggestion, I will say that I see no necessity for postponing the bill. It does not touch the settled portions of Utah, but it adds to the Territory of Colorado all that part of Utah unsurveyed and unoccupied by the Mormons, and thus extends the jurisdiction of Colorado over that part. It excludes the Mormons socially, of course, from that part, but they can move where they please. It concentrates whatever of the Mormon element governs the Territory of Utah within a limited jurisdiction, so that the force which they have played there for ten years of electing a Governor and Legislature and enacting State laws may be annulled by the notice which this bill gives them that they shall not have territorial area enough to left make a State. I drew the bill originally to blot out the Territory, but the committee thought it was best to let that part of it remain where the great body of the Mormons were until such time as the population of the adjacent Territories and State would be able to take care of them, and not be over-borne by the consolidated vote of that oligarchy.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois. I do not think the gentleman has met my point. He acknowledges, in the first place, that this bill takes away a large portion of the Territory of Utah. That Territory is represented here. Now, I think it but fair and just to that Delegate, in a matter which so deeply affects his constituents, that he should be here when the bill is acted upon. He is detained by sickness; and I appeal to my friend if he were in the same situation whether he would not consider it rather sharp practice to dispose of the bill in his absence.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. My committee will

not be called again this session, so that unless it is passed now there is no hope of getting it through the Senate.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois. I do not ask to have the bill placed in any worse position than it is now. That would be unreasonable. But we can postpone it so that it will not be placed in a worse position.

Mr. Cullom. When will the Delegate from Utah be here?

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois. I understand he has started from home; and the reason why he is not here is he is detained by sickness.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. If the House will agree to postpone the bill one week from to-day immediately after the reading of the Journal I will consent to it.

Mr. Eliot, of Massachusetts. I object.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. Then say after the morning hour.

Mr. Brooks. I think we should allow a longer time, so that the people of Utah can hear what is to be done. Say two weeks.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio. Very well; I have no objection, if the bill shall then be taken up and disposed of.

Speaker. If the order is made by unanimous consent the bill will be the special order at that time, and will be taken up and disposed of. Is there objection to postponing the bill to this day two weeks, immediately after the morning hour? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

By following the boundaries proposed in the above bill it will be found that that part of our Territory lying north of about Farmington, including Morgan, Weber, Cache and Rich counties would be included in Wyoming Territory. From about Farmington south as far as about Chicken creek, Juab county, our Territory would be a strip two degrees of longitude in width; from that point south to our present southern boundary it would be reduced to a strip one degree of longitude in width. Most of our settlements in Davis, all those in Salt Lake, Utah, Summit, Wasatch and Juab counties, and those in Tooele county—though Grantsville might possibly be west of the line—Scipio, Fillmore, Beaver, Parowan, and probably Cedar City would be included in the strip; but Washington and St. George would be excluded and would be in the State of Nevada; that is, if the State of Nevada, through its legislature, will accept of them. By this arrangement Sanpete county would become a part of Colorado.

## IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS CONFERENCES.

THE year 1868 was remarkable for its great political changes and the terrible convulsions in the physical world. What the present year may bring forth in these respects is, of course yet a matter of uncertainty. It seems likely however to be remarkable in a religious point of view. Two events, already decided upon, if no others occur, will make it so. These are the approaching Ecumenical Council, to be held at Rome sometime during the coming Spring, and the meeting of the World's Evangelical Alliance at New York, in the Fall of the present year. The Ecumenical Council, as its name implies, will be a council or assemblage of divines or professors of religion belonging to every Christian sect, from all parts of the world where Christianity flourishes, invited by the Holy Father, Pío Nono, with the avowed intention of bringing about harmony and unity of action between the various Christian sects, Catholics and Protestants, throughout the world. Whether the objects contemplated by His Holiness the Pope, will be accomplished, is rather doubtful, but the calling of the Council is an event of such importance as to make memorable in history the year in which it assembles.

The meeting of the World's Evangelical Alliance, being strictly Protestant, and taking place in the metropolis of our own country, will prove an event of more general importance to the religious communities of the country, than the coming Council in Rome.

This meeting is the result of an invitation extended by the American to the European members of the Alliance, the answer of the latter, accepting the invitation, being transmitted to this country by Dr. McCosh on his departure from Great Britain to assume the Presidency of Princeton College. Several reasons were assigned by the European branches of the Alliance for the speedy holding of the proposed Conference, among which, the following seem to be the most urgent:

"The attitude of the Papal power towards nations which have recently asserted the right of self government, and are in various ways breaking off its yoke, and have proclaimed religious liberty to their subjects, together with its vigorous activity in Protestant countries; and the growth and prevalence still further of various forms of

intellectual infidelity and practical atheism in all nations, strongly impress the Council with the conviction that Evangelical Christians must be more than ever united and active, nor be slow to fulfil the great duties to which the times so loudly call them."

When the condition of the country is considered, it seems as if the prayers of the righteous,—which are said to avail much,—were never more needed than at the present time. Crime and corruption everywhere hold high carnival,—in the halls of legislation as well as in the known resorts of thieves and robbers. The whisky, tobacco, railway, subsidy and various other "rings,"—in which the millions, wrung from the hard earnings of the masses by taxation, are gambled away as if they were of no moment, are known to exist, and are talked of by the press as commonly as the proceedings of the Wall Street gamblers and brokers; while crime and lawlessness are admitted to be on the increase, and the fact deplored by the press of the country.

Among the many testimonials that might be culled from our exchanges, as to the increase of crime and the general demoralization of American society, we present the following from the Hartford Post.

"To all this lawlessness, this recklessness of human life, this disregard of personal safety, and these constant breaches of the public peace, among the violent, there is added an almost complete demoralization on the part of those who esteem themselves the better classes. Men who build churches, found colleges, support ministers, pay liberally to missionary enterprises, are found to be among the worst. Recent events have exposed an utter absence of principle or conscience on the part of some of these men. Fraud, forgery, perjury, and every crime whose meshes are large enough to let the offenders through, they practice with impunity. They issue fraudulent certificates, and sell worthless stocks. They make a football of the national currency. They try ghastly experiments on trade and commerce. In the harsh phrase of the sharper, they 'bleed' everybody and everything within their reach. They shrink at no crime in the getting of money."

This view, which is alas! too true, affords food for serious thought and contemplation, and is an unmistakeable indication, notwithstanding the continual boastings of some about the greatness and prosperity of the nation, that, if wickedness will cause a nation's downfall our once glorious Republic is on the downward track.

If the coming meeting of the World's Evangelical Alliance, in the City of New York, will do aught towards purifying the halls of legislation, and the regeneration of society generally, the sooner it meets the better. And if these be the objects for which it meets it deserves and ought to have the prayers and faith of every honest-hearted, God-fearing man and woman in the whole nation.

## WAHNO; THE NORTHERN POLAR CONTINENT.

*Dreams of the Arctic Explorers realized.*

[Communicated exclusively to the Republican.]

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF WAHNO.

I was soon able to lift myself upon one arm and examine my surroundings. I could see that I was in a small circular hut or tent, woven with split reeds, like a basket, so open as to admit the light through crevices. No one was with me, but I could hear many voices near, and frequent and brilliant flashes of light upon one side of the tent made everything within visible, but were very painful to my eyes. I thought at first the flashes were from a thunder-cloud, but they assumed at times such a variety of colors that I could not account for them in this way, and I was puzzled till I thought of the northern aurora, which I had sometimes seen in the same colors but never before so brilliant. While I was watching their curious play through the crevices of my basket house, several little women entered, one of whom I knew to be a matron of considerable age, from her wrinkles and the dignity and self-possession of her manner, while the younger ones were evidently fluttered and somewhat afraid of the giant Providence had thrown upon their care. I made salutations in German, which, as I anticipated, were as strange to them as their words to me. How to make known my wants was not easily contrived. By putting my hands to my mouth as if taking food I soon gave them to understand that I was still hungry, and they brought me several kinds of fruit, all of which appeared to be half dried, and a small sort of bread-fruit, much