

EDITORIALS.

LOOK AFTER YOUR LAND TITLES.

If people wish to secure to themselves the lands upon which they have settled, they should use all due diligence to comply with the laws according to which they may have the titles vested in themselves. As the Federal Government holds the public domain chiefly for the benefit of those citizens who are disposed to take it up according to the laws, it follows that no one can have a secure title to any portion of such land except as obtained from the Government according to established legal provisions. It matters not what a man has done to improve a piece of public land, he can not own it, except by complying with the laws in force pertaining to the same. Many of our citizens outside of city limits, have taken up government land under the pre-emption or the homestead laws, and these laws must be complied with, or title to the respective lands can not be had by the settlers. Are these facts properly considered by the settlers on such lands in this Territory? If they are not, land titles affected thereby are worth little or nothing.

If a man homesteads a piece of land, it is a matter of primary importance to him, as respects his land, that he comply with the laws governing the case, and unless he complies with them in time he does not comply with them at all, and consequently he risks losing his title and his claim and all the improvements he has made on the land.

It seems to us that a large number of settlers on the public lands need stirring up to a realization of the situation in which they and their lands are in this regard at the present time. We are credibly informed that homestead applications made seven years ago are running out or expiring at the land office in this city at the rate of twelve every day. The time originally allowed by law was five years, which was subsequently extended two years, making seven years in all, and with many of the homestead applications and entries in the land office in this city this time for perfecting the titles has run out and with others it is running out daily at the rate named, without the applicants having taken the steps required by law to secure their titles. The people need stirring up in regard to these things, because, after the time named has expired, they have no legal claim to the lands they have entered and improved. It matters nothing what expense or labor they have put upon the lands, when the time named has expired, the claims of the settlers amount to nothing, the land reverts wholly to the government, and any other person may go to the land office and enter it for himself, while the dilatory settlers lose all—their lands as well as all their improvements thereon.

If the settlers have their own interest at heart, they will look after these things and proceed at once to comply with the provisions of the law, so that they may obtain for themselves the titles to the lands they have reclaimed, cultivated, and improved, and not see them, with all their improvements, go into the hands of others, who have not spent a dollar on them, either in money or labor.

There is a small pamphlet published at the News office, which contains the homestead and pre-emption laws and other material laws affecting the settling of public land, up to date, which all persons concerned would do well to obtain, so that they may have a proper understanding of what they have to do in order to secure a government title to their lands, which should be done without any unnecessary delay.

MARRIAGE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT.

It is well known that people recognized under the term of "free lovers" do not believe in marriage by State or ecclesiastical laws, but hold that it should be considered as merely a private contract between the man and woman concerned. The Boston Herald of

January 31st states that Mary Florence Hull, daughter of Moses Hull, an avowed free-lovist, who demands that all marriage laws shall be repealed, and that parties may be allowed to marry and divorce themselves under a general law of contracts, has contracted a "marriage" of that private contract sort with Horace Alvin Johnson, a leather store clerk, under the firm name of Hull & Johnson, from which it may be presumed that Mary is the best business man of the firm, yet the two members declare that they are very happy and contented.

The following is given as the contract between the two—

"BUSINESS AND CONJUGAL CONTRACT BETWEEN FLORENCE HULL AND HORACE ALVIN JOHNSON.

"We whose names are hereunto affixed, do, on this twenty-sixth day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six of the Christian era, enter into a business and conjugal contract; the firm to be known as Hull and Johnson.

"We regard ourselves as, in every sense of the word, equal partners, promising to strive to treat each other, under all circumstances, as becomes such. We promise that we will not try in any other way than by advice or persuasion to control the actions of each other.

"Believing that neither church nor state has any business with our affairs, we propose to live our own lives without reference to either, further than, if necessary, to give security to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that our children, should we be blessed with offspring, shall be, at least, as well cared for as are a majority of those born in legal wedlock.

"We further contract that when mutual love shall no longer justify our conjugal union, we shall part, giving the State as little trouble in our parting as we have in coming together."

The above document was read before a party of friends, and their opinions asked concerning it. The remarks made were in the way of approval and good wishes. Mary and Horace then stepped forward and signed the contract. This party was at the residence of Moses, the father, a sort of farewell gathering, previous to the old gentleman making a journey to Vineland, N. J., where he had been summoned to appear in court to answer to the charge of practicing what he preached.

TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT VOTING.

THERE are a number of persons in this Territory who make professions of great regard for the purity of the ballot, but who, whenever they get the chance to handle the votes, are not correspondingly remarkable for practical regard for that purity. Rather have they a reputation for encouraging voting early and often by the less scrupulous of their own partisans. Yet these very immaculate characters make a great outcry, every now and then, about the practice in this Territory, as required by law, of numbering the ballots cast, and argue sophistically that a secret ballot is the great cure-all for alleged impurity of the ballot, that is, for illegal voting.

It happens, however, that the secret ballot is a common institution in the States, but notwithstanding that fact complaints of illegal voting are much more frequent and loud there than they are in Utah. So much so, that from different States we hear of a growing inclination to favor the system of marking the ballots, in some way similar to that which is provided by law in Utah, in order to secure greater purity to the ballot. A short time ago, the report came that a change of this kind was strongly advocated in Ohio, and now a similar indication comes from old Connecticut, as will be seen by the following extract, under the caption placed at the beginning of this article, from the Bridgeport (Conn.) Standard of Feb. 2, an influential republican paper—

"The Mormons have a very simple way of preventing ballot-box stuffing and also of ascertaining

which are the fraudulent votes, if any are cast, and it is simply the requirement that each vote should be numbered and the name of the person casting it is recorded in the poll book opposite the number. If any illegal votes are cast they can be easily discovered and thrown out. If instead of recording the name of the voter, he should be required to write his name on the ballot, all those who cannot read and write would be prevented from voting. If any man voted on another man's name, the forgery could be easily detected by the evidence of the man whose name was used, or by a comparison of his real signature with the false one. If fictitious names were used by repeaters, it could usually be shown that no such voters lived in that district, and generally, we think, this method is the simplest and surest of any possible provision to secure the purity of the ballot-box, the only objection to it being that sometimes men would be afraid to scratch their tickets or change their party, from fear of offending somebody or of hurting their own interests directly or indirectly. Still a little strain upon some weak-nerved persons would be much more than compensated for by the security that this method gives for an honest vote."

THE JEWISH RESTORATION.

PUBLIC interest has been considerably excited of late upon the subject of Palestine and the increased number of Jews residing there the last few years, and many of the public journals have their say upon the matter. The London Spectator has the following—

"A curious rumor is afloat, for which we do not vouch, that the Porte, in its eagerness for money, has offered to sell the hereditary pashalic of the Holy Land to any candidate accepted by the Jews, in return for a loan. The transaction would be one of the most singular in history, but it is not beyond the range of possibility. Palestine needs nothing but irrigation and trees, and, though the Jews dislike agriculture, fellahien sufficient might be attracted from Egypt. The restoration of the Jews, with Lord Beaconsfield for first king, would be an incident romantic enough to satisfy even the imagination of the author of 'Elroy.'"

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

THE creation of the tripartite plural electoral returns commission was hailed by many as the ram caught in the thicket, the providential means whereby the vexed presidential election question was to be settled on its merits and consequently to the general satisfaction, and the republic saved from the prognosticated disunion, civil war, and anarchy. Some persons, however, were not quite so satisfied that the decisions of the commission would be generally acceptable, and not a few regretted that members of the Supreme Court should be thus dragged into the mire of politics, from which it was generally held that their high judicial offices were tacitly understood to be aloof. It was further anticipated by various people that it would be impossible to preserve the commission from partisan spirit and leanings, in which the judicial members would more or less participate, the ermine even not being sufficient to preserve them from the contagiousness of partisan company.

So far the action of the commission has rather favored the views of those who were dissatisfied with it. For in the votes and decisions of the commission, to the regret of many of the non-partisan public, and also of many of the partisan public, the partisan spirit has been apparent, votes and decisions being evidently of a strictly partisan character and within strictly partisan lines.

It is unfortunate that such an impression concerning the commission should go out, and still more unfortunate that there should be any foundation for such an impression. For unless it is removed, it will do no credit to the members of the Supreme Court who compose a portion of the commission, nor will it increase the public confidence in the impartiality of their future decisions on the bench in their own

courts if the Supreme Court justices could have been kept entirely out of the electoral squabble, it would have been much better, but as most of them are in the commission it is certainly a desirable thing that their decisions and votes as members of the commission be kept as free as possible from partisan spirit, or even the appearance of anything of that kind.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—A New York paper says, "The great chestnut tree in the Tuileries Gardens has buds on it." Perhaps so. All the live trees in this vicinity have buds on them.

—Rev. Dr. J. E. Edwards, a Methodist, in opening the Virginia State Senate, lately, invoked the aid of heaven in getting this "crazy, tottering government" out of its present dilemma.

—The New York police authorities hold that every congregation of persons on street corners that does not disperse after due warning must be taken into camp at all hazards, as corner loafing is too great a nuisance to be tolerated.

—The Boston Transcript thus states the case between Theodore Thomas and the Centennial City—"Philadelphia is a very nice city. It has very nice candy, very nice ladies, very nice terrapin soup, very clean white marble doorsteps, and the front window curtains all have two tassels and a fringe on the bottom edge. And yet Philadelphia has no ear for music."

—A large vegetable market at Edinburgh has been turned into a promenade concert garden.

—A New York paper says, "Justice Bradley loves to sit up all night over a mathematical problem. He has a temper like an isosceles triangle."

—Beecher claims to be a Welshman, with a little infusion of New England blood. He says he had an ancestress three or four generations ago who was a full-blooded Welsh woman.

—M. Offenbach, in his American reminiscences, says, "It must be confessed that there are no women more charming than the Americans. First, they are pretty in a proportion wholly unknown in Paris. Out of a hundred women who pass by, ninety are attractive. Besides, they know how to dress themselves. Their toilette is perfect in taste, full of tact and truly elegant. One would think they had come from Worth."

—The Cincinnati Times of Feb. 1 says, "Lancaster Hodges, of Brownfield, Maine, was 106 years old, last Wednesday, and he shamed many young men the other day by his scientific dancing of 'Money Musk' and 'Fisher's Hornpipe.'"

—The Universalist asserts that insanity follows religious revivals as surely as suffering follows war.

—Some people are never satisfied. The New York Sun comments thus on the fifteenth member of the electoral commission—"Joe Bradley our President maker! To this complexion we have come at last!"

—It is stated that there are twenty-four Presbyterian churches in the Indian Territory connected with the Southern Assembly, with seven ministers, only one of whom is a white man, one a colored man, and the remainder Indians.

—The weather in London and in much of England has been very moist and warm, causing an epidemic among horses, and in the southern counties the extraordinary mildness of the winter has caused an uncommonly early development of spring flowers and other spring vegetation.

—It is America that sends all the worst storms to Europe, and the New York Herald says, "Fortunately for us no extradition treaties in force give European governments any power to send them back to us again."

—"Whom did Miss Mary E. Knox marry?" is a question that is agitating Putnam County, New York. Mary says John A. Merritt was the man, that he called for her in a carriage, that they drove together to the clergyman's house and were married on the night of November 8th last, that she came home and John drove away and she did not see him afterwards except as he was driving by. John says he was not the bridegroom. It is suggested that George Knox, brother of the bride, personated

Merritt. The clergyman is puzzled as to whether Merritt, or Knox, or another man he has seen most resembles the bridegroom whom he married to Mary, but he thinks neither of them does altogether.

—The following purports to be George Francis Train's last card—"As I receive no callers, talk with no adults, make no speeches, visit no theatres, concerts, lyceums or churches, enter no hotels, restaurants, courts or public places, see no interviewers, attend no dinners, ball or private parties, make no calls, give no Xmas presents, make no charitable donations, attend no weddings or festivals, shake no hands, belong to no club, society or party, court no sympathy, ask no favors, need no money, desire no friendship, seek no office, have no wish, possess no aspirations, there is no necessity of any one having my address! Letters simply directed New York City will reach me."

—The Washington Star of February 2nd says, "Senator Thurman is a great sufferer from neuralgia. During the past ten days he has scarcely slept at night, or been free from pain an hour in the day."

—Now they term Boston "the infidel city." Think of that, O ye Puritans and children of Puritans, Pilgrim Fathers and Pilgrim children!

—Grasshoppers are hatching out freely in Iowa, Nebraska and Dakota.

—The Chicago Times of Feb. 3rd says, "The Chicago and Northwestern have had several dining cars built for use on the Omaha division. The last of the cars ordered for this purpose arrived here on yesterday. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company are also building some dining cars, which will be ready to take the track about the first of May."

—The Texas Corpus Christi Times says, "Owing to the drought which prevailed so long in the fall, preventing the fattening of cattle and the growth of grass, reducing their power of bearing the inclemencies of the winter, many thousand cattle are dying daily from starvation and other causes." On the contrary, reports from Nebraska are that the cattle on the ranges are in uncommonly good condition.

—The Boston Post says, "Morton leads the Senate only when it goes backward."

—Laramie is spoken of as likely to become another Pittsburgh.

—The New York Herald asks, "What would we do if all the theatres should be closed?" And then goes on to say, "We rejoice to know that the area of depression which rested over the theatres this winter is removed, and that the public interest in the drama is revived."

—The Bishop of Manchester, in an address in the Theatre Royal, Manchester, Feb. 3, to the companies of that theatre and the Queen's, made a "noble and eloquent defence" of the stage. He said he was the first bishop of the Church of England, if not the first bishop of Christ's Church, that ever addressed a congregation in a theatre. He thought that no one could leave a good performance of "Hamlet" or "Othello" without feeling his whole nature elevated and strengthened. In 1858 His Grace knew Macready, whom in 1865 he met Mr. Charles Kean in Canada, and he never enjoyed personal society more.

—Judge McCue, of Brooklyn, thinks a few public trials of divorce cases would tend to diminish the number of applications of that kind, and on that ground he recently refused to send a case to a referee.

—Even the English sparrows are leaving Boston and other eastern localities and going west. They hold noisy mass-meetings, and then soar high in the air, and follow the setting sun.

—The farmers around Suisun, Cal., find their newly sown wheat-fields infested by a worm which attacks the kernel of grain before it sprouts, or soon after it has done so, and a number of fields have been ruined. The same pest destroyed a crop of grain in Sonoma some years ago.

—Hard times affect the fashionable churches in the States. Numbers of them have that fashionable incumbrance, "bonded indebtedness," and some of them are threatened with foreclosure. The total church indebtedness of churches in New York is said to be \$2,000,000.