

House of Representatives. In the latter case the free coinage men would have 26 states to 19 on the other side, the balance of power being in the hands of silver-Republican states, who probably would vote the way their states go in November. Here are two of the possibilities of Democratic free coinage success.

### AN ERRONEOUS REPORT.

In the NEWS synopsis of the remarks of Elder Brigham Young, at the Tabernacle on Sunday, June 28, through a misunderstanding of what was said a serious blunder was committed, by which Elder Young was made to say precisely the opposite of the sentiments he expressed. In the report it was stated that Elder Young said he had followed the instructions and advice of the authorities of the Church, and by the whisperings of the Holy Spirit the truth of such instructions had been made known to him. The synopsis went on: "But not so with all matters temporal. His own judgment had taught him the truth or falsity of certain statements made concerning temporal things. It was not necessary on such occasions to ask the Lord for His assistance in regard to these things because he had sufficient knowledge within him to solve those matters for himself." It was in the words quoted that the error was made, in inadvertently conveying the idea that he referred to temporal matters generally. What Elder Young did say was that he had no occasion to ask the Lord about the truthfulness of certain remarks when he knew them to be untrue. As to the assistance of the Lord in temporal as well as spiritual matters, Elder Young's view is that in both is such assistance necessary, and it is proper to invoke the blessing of the Almighty upon, and ask Him for guidance in, temporal as well as spiritual matters. The NEWS regrets the error, made in the manner indicated. That there may be nothing undone in the way of a full correction of the mistake, and that a thorough understanding may be given of what was said, we here give the shorthand report of all that Elder Young said on the particular topic in which the error was made:

One of the very first testimonies that I received through the influence of the Spirit of God was that God had made Himself known; that He had a Church upon the earth, and that those whom He had called to lead that Church were inspired of Him. I have never considered that I was giving up my agency, or surrendering it in the least, when I listened to the dictates of the Spirit of God given to me through His authorized servants. I have reserved a right in this also, which I maintain today, that no counsel is given to me, or has been given to me, but what I have the right to seek my Father in Heaven and know whereof men speak. And this privilege is given to the Latter-day Saints; not to me alone, but to every man and every woman who has embraced the everlasting Gospel. I may hear men speak, lecture, deliver political speeches, and I have no occasion to go the Lord and ask for the truthfulness of their remarks in many particulars, for I know they are lying. My judgment tells me that; the experience that I have had tells me that. But when the voice of the servants of God is raised

in defense of that which is pure and holy—the revelations that have been given of the Almighty—I recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd; and I have a right to do it, because I claim it through striving to serve Him in His own appointed way.

### A MOHAMMEDAN SECT.

The Babis, the society to which the slayer of the late shah of Persia belongs and which are said to conspire against the life of the present incumbent of the throne, are a religious sect, founded about fifty years ago by Mohammed Ali of Shiraz. He was a kind of reformer who gained a number of adherents.

A characteristic of Mohammedanism is the emphasis it places upon outward forms and ceremonies, and nearly all reformatory attempts within Islam have had for its object to give more prominence to the mystic element of the faith. Mohammed Ali followed the path of many of his predecessors. He called himself "Bab," which means a door, because he was, he said, the gate through which entrance to the presence of the Almighty was to be obtained. According to him the Divine Spirit that permeates the universe was gradually revealed through the prophets. Bab was higher than Mohammed, as the latter was more advanced than the Nazarene.

Bab prescribes prayer less frequent than the orthodox Mohammedans and considers the regulations as to ablutions less important. He allows the women to mingle with the other sex more according to European than Asiatic ideas of propriety. He prohibits the partaking of wine and opium and allows no one of his adherents to beg.

The Persian government was soon induced to take measures for the suppression of the sect, and these rallied in self-defense under the leadership of an ex-priest. A sanguinary conflict lasting for months took place. They were conquered about the time Nasr ed Din ascended the throne. Several of their leading men, and among others Mohammed Ali, were captured, tortured and finally slain. The new Bab escaped to Bagdad and from here he directed what may be called his missionary efforts. The persecutions continued but he still gained many adherents. They are now numerous enough to be a source of danger in a country like Persia and it is not certain that the present shah's reign will be more peaceful than that of his unfortunate predecessor.

### THE SUN'S ECLIPSE.

Today, July 1 a special 4,000-ton steamer is to leave, London for Vadsø, Norway, to witness the great astronomical event of this year, which occurs August 8th and 9th, according to locality. Besides the scientists who will sail from London there will be astronomers from this country who left New York June 27 for Bodo, in the Lofoden islands, the crown prince of Sweden, who goes to Lapland to view the eclipse, and many others, including a special expedition

from the Lick observatory, California, and from Amherst college, Mass., to Japan, to view the phenomena.

The track of the eclipse extends across the northern part of Norway and Finland, crossing Nova Zembla, traversing Siberia in a southwesterly direction, passing over Yezo, the northern island of Japan, and the Sandwich Islands. The darkness will only be of short duration, nowhere exceeding three minutes—about two minutes and three-quarters in Yezo and only about one and three-quarters in Norway. At Yezo the eclipse will be observed about 3 o'clock in the afternoon of August 9, and this place affords the best opportunity for observations.

The past half century has witnessed a remarkable transition in the eagerness to view this phenomenon. Little more than fifty years ago astronomers rarely went from home to make observations of total solar eclipses, but now such events call out expeditions from the chief governments of the world, who vie with each other in equipping parties with apparatus to solve the great variety of problems pertaining to the sun, its physical properties and surroundings. In the observing stations at Yezo there will be at least ten telescopes, ten cameras, three spectroscopes, and two polariscopes. Not less than twenty-five different instruments, with axes all parallel, following the sun all the time, and controlled by a single commutator, will be in use. The series of observations and the photographic views that will be taken of Old Sol and his surroundings during the period of entire or partial obscuration ought to afford some additional knowledge pertaining to the appearances and conditions on "the orb of day."

### AT THE TRANSFIGURATION.

A Salt Lake City reader of the NEWS presents the following inquiry, with a request that it be responded to through our columns:

Is there anything in the Scriptures to justify a claim that at the time of the transfiguration of Christ, recorded in Matthew 17: 2-8, Mark 9: 2-8, and Luke 9: 28-30, Jesus received the Melchisedek Priesthood from Moses and Elias?

No; whatever endowment was conferred upon that occasion, it certainly was not an ordination of Jesus to the Melchisedek Priesthood. He held that authority prior to going on the mount. Peter, James and John were with Him (there as Apostles whom He had "called and ordained" previous to that time; and when He chose them He possessed the authority to do so and to ordain them Apostles, which is an act pertaining to the Melchisedek Priesthood, of which He is the great High Priest. The date of the transfiguration as it appears in the New Testament is in the third year of the Lord's ministry, and He must have selected Peter, James, John, and the other Apostles at least two years prior to the visit of Moses and Elias referred to. Therefore, to make the claim our inquirer suggests is to do so in direct contradiction of the order of events set forth in the New Testament record. The only intimation to be drawn as to what