

will have to stay out for a while yet. Well, let her stay; she can afford it, even though the period of exclusion should extend through the whole of the incoming administration and beyond it. We would prefer that it be otherwise and perhaps it will be; but whether or not makes no serious difference and the contemplation thereof gives rise to neither painful regret on one hand nor consuming pleasure on the other. It is not in the least likely that statehood would make Utah much greater than she is. She occupies a very distinguished and not disagreeably grotesque position now, which statehood would measurably diminish if not obliterate altogether. The spectacle of a territory older, richer, better educated, more populous and more promising than any of its neighbors staying out after they have gone in, is a most unique one and those who have even a modicum of philosophy in their composition ought to enjoy it. The Territory of Utah, in a word, occupies the position outlined at the beginning of this article—it has the title but not the possession.

As previously stated in these columns, we neither oppose nor strenuously advocate statehood for the reasons given. When it comes we will make it as welcome as any one. Until it does happen, then, let us all possess our souls in peace and go on as we have been going, making our mountain home better, more comfortable and more commodious than ever; let us show that whatever our political situation, nothing that law-makers may do can prevent us from deserving, realizing and enjoying the full measure of prosperity and sturdy advancement which come of able and concerted effort intelligently guided and wisely controlled.

LET THEM DO THEIR WORST.

The treasury department though at its wits' end to keep up the gold reserve, is compelled to go on purchasing silver which it does not want, and which only adds to its embarrassments.

So speaks the *Boston Traveler*, a mouthing, weak-minded, senile sort of sheet that is clear only on the subject of liquor prohibition—and not very practical even at that—while pitifully insipid and drooling on every other question before the world today. Still, it supplies a text that is worthy of some comment.

The dispatches have told us all kinds of stories regarding the issue of gold bonds by the treasury department, the object of which should be to preserve in Uncle Sam's vaults a comfortable gold reserve against heavy foreign shipments. The report was, first, that such bonds would be issued, and, second, that they would not. Then came the news that Secretary Foster was resolved upon that plan of meeting the strain and the President was content to leave it to his discretion; and right upon the heels of this announcement came a denial, to the effect that the administration had resolved to make no such issue and would try to meet all financial demands until the 4th of March, after which the difficulty could not come too soon for those who had so narrowly escaped it. In cer-

tain minds of cooler temperament there has arisen grave question whether or not the secretary of the treasury had the authority to issue such bonds without congressional permission, and to remove all possible doubt it has been urged that the bill of Senator Sherman providing for a three per cent short term bond should be hastened to its passage.

All of this ground and lofty tumbling excites more or less of a smile among western people who decline to be bamboozled by financiering acrobatics, and whose intelligence up to date permits them to distinguish, at least as accurately as the average Easterner, between a hawk and a hand saw.

If there is a public man in this country today who does not know how important a part silver played in the resumption of specie payments—when there was not nearly gold enough on hand to redeem the outstanding greenbacks or even the national bank notes;—if there is a public man who does not know that what made resumption a success was not the actual presence of the yellow coin, but the assistance of the white metal and above all the declaration of the government that the paper could be exchanged on demand for the coin;—if there is such a man, particularly among those who now pompously undertake to discuss financial legislation, he ought to go to school again and devote diligent study to the post-bellum money history of his country.

What was done in those days can and ought to be done again. One word from the government today would place gold and silver on an equal footing and do away with gold hoarding and gold shipment. That the government has a right to say that word no one will question. But, no; there is a discrimination against silver; it has been debased; the gold bugs assert that its coinage and circulation will be to put a premium on gold, just as the same gentry predicted that the holders of gold at the date fixed for specie resumption would have the money market in their control. Their predictions came to naught, for proof was given that "the way to resume was to resume," and that Uncle Sam's word was good. They would be proven just as false today, for one bold word from the United States treasury department, exercising its undoubted right to pay "the debtor in coin," either gold or silver, would solve the whole difficulty.

Still, no such courage is to be expected from the present administration, and probably not from the next. We despair of any aid from executive sources, and have little hope from the legislative branch as at present constituted. What, then, shall be done to relieve the pressure upon the gilded brain of Wall street and its sycophants, and upon the delicate intellect of papers like the *Boston Traveler*, which we have quoted? "Go on purchasing silver, which the government does not want and which only adds to its embarrassments?"

We are ready to give the answer, No! If the administration wants a bit of Western advice, here it is: Quit purchasing silver; repeal the Sherman law; relieve the imbecile treasury department of its embarrassments

and Wall street of its anxieties; force this issue, and do it at once! We of the West would suffer for perhaps 60 days, perhaps even 90; but after that the boot would pinch on the other foot. Besides, our best interests are being at present slaughtered by inches. Can they more than die if the worst be precipitated instead of postponed?

The *News* is a friend of silver. We believe in its royalty, its purchasing and debt-paying power. We believe it has been shamefully treated, at the caprice if not as the crime of a certain element in our nation. We ardently desire its restoration to power, and believe that in such action, and only such, is there financial security for all sections of the country. But we are tired of pleading its case as though it were a mendicant, and we are willing to have its enemies do their worst. We are not only ready to invite them to this course, but are satisfied of the wisdom of forcing them to it. If all the friends of silver, in and out of Congress, would unite in this plan of campaign, victory would be ours within a twelvemonth, and the gaping monometallists would be left without a leg to stand on.

SENSIBLE WORDS.

In an article on the future of Hawaii, a recent issue of the *London Financial News* says that "if the interest of the British bondholder alone were consulted it seems certain that American annexation would be the very best thing that could happen for him," and adds: "Now that the queen has been deposed a protectorate would not meet the exigencies of the case. We believe that it would be very much better for Hawaii to be annexed out and out than for the islands to be ruled by a local government, nominally independent, but really taking its instructions direct from Washington. Great Britain might very properly assent to annexation on condition that British rights were protected and that our commercial relations with Hawaii were not in any way prejudiced."

The *News* thinks that the English people have no great voice in the matter at all, considering that 91 per cent of the trade of the islands is with the United States. To all intents and purposes Hawaii is already a small American colony—Honolulu is up to date with American ideas and customs—and no harm could ensue to anyone if the bond of connection were made as tight in name as it is in reality. "The inevitable course of history," says the *News*, "is that these pettifogging monarchies should disappear, and that the communities which they inadequately represent should be absorbed in the greater states of the world. If the American legislature be reluctant to undertake the duty which is thrust upon it, some other country will have to step in; for Hawaii cannot be left to become the victim of internal convulsion and the rivalries of political intrigue."

All of which reads refreshingly, after the bluster of some of the other English journals which affect to see in annexation by the United States a blow to British prestige, popularity and pride. It is, it seems, a mere