

## A HALF MILLION BUILDING.

IN the Senate of the United States, on Tuesday, the bill for a government building in Salt Lake City, was passed. Through the diligence of Delegate Caine a serious mistake was rectified. The original proposition was for \$500,000, to be expended for this purpose. This was subsequently cut down to \$200,000. But Mr. Caine labored indefatigably against the reduction, and succeeded with the committee in restoring the amount to the original sum.

In reporting the bill to the Senate, however, through a clerical error the \$200,000 remained in the text. On hearing it read, Mr. Caine, who was in the Senate watching the interest of his constituents, at once perceived the blunder, and hastening to Senator Paddock gained his help to prevent action until Senator Carey, who was absent, could be sent for. When he arrived he explained the matter to the satisfaction of the Senate, and the bill passed with the full amount of the appropriation.

Half a million for the erection of a public building in Salt Lake City means a good deal for local prosperity, and it is to be hoped that instead of being misrepresented in this matter, as in times past, our Delegate will receive the credit that is his due. He has all along done everything possible in relation to this measure, and if it does not receive the presidential signature the fault will not be his.

We hope no further obstacle will be placed in the way of the bill, but that it will soon become a law. The Territory wants the building and the Government needs it badly.

## ALGER'S CHANCES EXTINGUISHED.

THE assault by the New York *Sun* upon General Alger's war record will wipe out any chance that gentleman ever had, if any existed, of receiving the Republican nomination for President. This result will accrue independently of the truth or falsity of the charges made against him. The arraignment by the *Sun* and Gen. Alger's reply are before the country. The public have no grounds upon which to reach a just conclusion as to the merits of the respective bases of the controversy. But the rule of law does not govern popular opinion. On the contrary it is much too common with the bulk of people to believe a person guilty on the foundation of a mere *ex parte* charge when it emanates from an influential source. This is especially the effect of assertions made

by a prominent and powerful newspaper, against which an individual has great difficulty in defending himself.

When the name of a popular hero like Custer, who rode into the "valley of death" in his famous charge against Sitting Bull's forces, is used in connection with the *Sun's* attack upon Alger, the result is almost a foregone conclusion. The flame of the latter's aspirations in the direction of the White House incumbency must be extinguished, whether it be true or not that his discharge from the army was recommended on the ground of absence from duty without leave. Besides the potency of the force directed against General Alger in this controversy, the country is exceedingly sensitive on the subject of war records. It would be difficult for any man whose career has even the taint of suspicion attached to it in that respect, to receive a nomination of either party for President of the United States. It will be safe enough to believe that Alger is out of the race toward the White House.

## CAUGHT IN ITS OWN NET.

A COMMUNICATION in another part of today's News shows up one novel feature of the "Liberal" plan of campaign—one that would make most partisans, if men of judgment and at all sensitive, heartily ashamed of themselves at being found out in such nefarious work. The organ of that party this morning, with big headlines and leaded matter, announces with all the gravity imaginable, that Arthur Brown and one Hegney had an altercation on the street over the former having deprived the other of a vote to which he was entitled at the recent election in the Fourth precinct. The account states that Mr. Brown advised the voteless victim to evacuate the premises, or words to that effect, stating that if he wanted to avoid trouble he would leave town at once. To this presumptuous demand Hegney returned a reply bristling with virtuous indignation, declaring that so long as he could pay his way he didn't propose to budge an inch—and so on, quite a "spat" having ensued. The beauty of it all is that Mr. Brown presided over poll 2, from M to Z, and Hegney, if refused a vote at all, was refused at the other poll, and Mr. Brown had nothing at all to do with the transaction! If the other portion of the story is as truthful as this—and we doubt not that it is—the reader will obtain a new insight into the process of news manufacturing for political purposes, and perhaps for the gratification of personal spite.

## "DESERET."

THE "philological" contributor to the editorial columns of the *Tribune* has a peculiar way of accounting for the word "Deseret." He assumes that Joseph Smith coined the word, and that the materials used were the English word "desert" and an "e" interpolated between the last two letters. The assumption is so puerile that it ought perhaps to be treated in anything but a serious vein. What possible object could Joseph Smith have in coining a word for "bee" more than for anything else mentioned in the context? None whatever. But if there were any such object, can anybody believe that he would have made so clumsy an attempt as the slight alteration of "desert" to "deseret" is, and thereby subject the whole book to just suspicion? The idea must be rejected by all who give the subject any thoughtful consideration.

The "philological" expert of the *Tribune* claims that the "et" which is the terminal of "deseret" is a diminutive, and "can have no other possible effect." He therefore decides with oracular wisdom and dogmatic assumption that "deseret" means nothing else than "little desert." By this inflexible Tribinish rule, carpet means nothing else than a little carp; bucket a little buck; bullet, a little bull; cornet, a little corn; gullet, a little gull; socket, a little sock, racket, a little rack, etc. We might give a long list of words with the terminal et, in which the *Tribune* writer's rule has no application or would appear as nonsense. But let us look at the matter in a more serious way:

From the Book of Ether, where "deseret" first occurs, we gather that it is a word handed down from a long lost language. It was found in the records of Ether, who translated it into the vernacular tongue of his people, and by Moroni, who abridged the records of Ether, both the original and the interpretation were given, and thus found their way into the English translation of those sacred records. This is what is claimed for it.

Ether was a descendant of Jared who, with his brother and some other families, came from the plains of Shinar, after the building of the tower. It is therefore to be concluded, *a priori*, that the word is a derivative from some root which would be found in the language used before the confusion of tongues. But this original tongue is lost, and there is no ordinary means whereby the word can be identified as belonging to the vocabulary of that language.