

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Amenities of Enemies in Congress—A Probable Settlement of the Electoral Question—A New Naval Bill—Commodore Ammen's Marine Ram.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 1876.
Editor Deseret News:

Nothing surprises visitors to the national halls of legislation so much as the amenities of enemies. I mean of political enemies. Senators Morton and Thurman are, for instance, in a state of chronic belligerency, always grappling each other by the political throat, each showing the other to be flimsy, false, and illogical; each unable to look upon the sins and heresies of which the other is the political representative with the least degree of allowance. But before and after debate they may be seen in the friendliest conversation, talking and laughing like college chums. There is strife and enmity of a bitter personal character in both the House and the Senate, but it is the exception rather than the rule, that this is marked by party lines.

The opinion that, after all, there may be an amicable adjustment of the presidential difficulty is just now very prevalent. The object of the congressional joint committee on this subject is to decide upon some method of settlement of the presidential difficulty, and its simple appointment, even if it should not accomplish all that is hoped, is an important point gained for peace, since it is a concession on the part of both houses of Congress, and a tacit acknowledgment of their interdependence. The personnel of the Senate committee is of a character that gives reason to hope that a satisfactory result may after all be reached by arbitration, and men of both parties look to it to rescue the country from the perils which overhang it.

A bill was introduced yesterday to regulate the navy. It embraces some important and excellent features which your correspondent heard suggested by Commodore Ammen, U.S.N., several years ago, but it is to be regretted that it does not provide for home defense specifically as suggested by this distinguished officer and *savant*.

Commodore Ammen is the inventor of a marine ram of wonderful strength and swiftness; it is proposed to use it mainly for port and coast defence, and its advantages are that while it costs a mere pittance in comparison with the heavy armored vessels of the European navies, it will surely sink any ship with which it may collide. Its construction has received the highest approval of naval engineers, and also of Mr. Eads, the projector of the Mississippi jetties, and its advantages of cheapness and effectiveness are so palpable, and the importance of the defence of our extensive coast so far transcends every other service for which our navy can be employed, that it is almost impossible to understand why Congress will appropriate millions to keep fleets cruising in European and Asiatic waters, while sure and economical precautions for the defence of our own coast are neglected. Six or eight of the rams proposed by Commodore Ammen would make it impossible for those otherwise resistless heavy armored ships like the *Iron Duke* and *Van Guard* to come within range of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other large cities, and, yet, they can be built and equipped for less than one-fifth of the expense of the heavy armored vessels. It may be proper to add that what I have said about this ram is without the knowledge of the inventor, whom I have not seen for more than a year, and further, that I know that he does not expect or desire pecuniary remuneration for his invention, but to present it as he presented another invention of his (the life-saving *balsa*) to the service which he loves, and with which his life has been identified.

C. A. S.

The Poorhouse and Helping the Poor.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa,
Dec. 20, 1875.

Editor Deseret News:

About three miles from this place, on the road to Crescent City, stands the County Poorhouse of Pottawattamie County. I have frequent occasion to pass it on my way into the country. I never do so with-

out an impression that there is something wrong about it. It is not associated in my mind with those pleasant impressions that should be connected with Christian charity. With nothing especially forbidding in the building itself or in its surroundings, there is an air of loneliness and isolation about it. It seems an intermediate institution between a rural home and the penitentiary. It is emphatically the *Poor-house*, and the farm attached is as emphatically the *Poor Farm*.

Although the tenants have the privilege of enjoying the free air and sunshine, there is a marked lack of sympathy between them and their surroundings. They are under a ban; they can make no progress in their associations; they have really no neighbors; a cold calculating charity has raised a barrier between them and their fellows. If some of its inmates have found shelter there as the result of degrading habits, there can be nothing reformatory in their condition, and they live a life of comparative indolence on the proceeds of honest labor. If there, because misfortune has laid its iron hand upon them, there is but little in mere protection from the elements and the craving of hunger to satisfy the soul that longs for kindness and sympathy which it cannot find.

Probably an examination of this subject would disclose the fact that the present method of relieving the poor is about as good as the present organization of society here will warrant. It is too comprehensive a question to discuss here, and the discussion could be of little use to the Saints in Utah. Providing for the poor should be directly connected with the religious duties of a people. Charity should be attended with the ameliorating spirit of the gospel. Our uniformity of religious sentiment, and consequent thorough organization, enable us to do this with an efficiency and economy impossible with a people divided by a great variety of religions and sympathies. The system here is financially objectionable, as it creates in the aggregate an army of petty officials who absorb in wages and perquisites, funds that should be used for the comfort and progress of the worthy poor, or lighten the burden of taxation on honest labor. When the poor are isolated from the notice and sympathies of neighbors and friends, they are subject to abuse from brutal and dishonest overseers. There seems a peculiar fitness in the inference we may draw from the saying of our Saviour to his disciples, "The poor ye have with you; but me ye have not always," implying that the poor should not be cast out, but be a means of constantly reminding us of that love and sympathy which ever characterizes the Spirit of the Gospel.

When help comes to the sick, the widow and the fatherless, as the fruit of the spontaneous good feelings of neighbors and friends, with a mutual "God bless you" from those who give and those who receive, it loses that chilliness engendered by a feeling that the poor are a necessary social evil, to be got along with in the cheapest and most practical manner possible. When the poor and the man of competence, who is ready to extend help in time of need, both occupy the same seat in the temple of worship, partake from the same sacramental cup, when their children attend the same week day and Sunday school, when honest poverty is no reproach, and the indigent are assisted in their own homes no matter how humble, they are able to still retain that self-respect which is ever a necessary condition for personal improvement and progress. Where poverty is synonymous with social degradation, it tends to vice, and both more readily become prominent factors in society. May the tendencies of outside civilization in Utah never be sufficiently strong to induce an organized system of charity which will separate its recipients from the amenities of general society. Let that alone be the fate of those who by their crimes have forfeited their right to enjoy its blessings.

JAMES A. LITTLE.

Constitution and our liberties may survive us all." And further—"in the meantime let us submit to the inevitable. This hundred years of glorious self-government, that was born of the fathers, ends in a returning board—two whites, two negroes, and all rogues."

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1876.

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NOTICE.
In the Probate Court in and for Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah.

HATTIE MCKERNAN, Plaintiff, against JOSEPH P. MCKERNAN, Defendant.
The People of the Territory of Utah, To Joseph P. McKernan, defendant, Greeting.

YOU are hereby summoned to appear in an action brought against you by the above named Hattie McKernan, Plaintiff, in the Probate Court in and for the County of Salt Lake and Territory of Utah, and answer the complaint filed therein, within ten days (exclusive of the day of service) after the service on you of this summons, if served within this county, and if not within this county but within the Third Judicial District of the Territory of Utah within twenty days, otherwise within forty days, or judgment will be taken against you by default, according to the prayer of said complaint.

This action is brought to obtain a decree from this Court dissolving the bonds of matrimony existing between this plaintiff and you, and for such other and further relief as may be just and equitable, and cost of suit.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and seal of said Court, in Salt Lake City, this 9th day of December, A.D. 1876.

D. BOCKHOLT, Clerk of the Probate Court, Salt Lake County.

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