

The Territorial Appointments.

The President has been inaugurated, and taken again the oath of office; the Senate has convened in special session—and now the trouble begins. The number of patriotic individuals who have placed a box of collars, a tooth-brush, a deck of cards, a suspicious looking black bottle, and a file of recommendations in their carpet-bags, and started to Washington with the laudable intention of sacrificing themselves in the civil service of the country, is legion. For days they have been thronging towards the capital and now they will go by train loads. Washington will be jammed from cellar to garret by the inevitable office-seeker. Four men out of every six in that city to-day want an office; next week the proportion will be nine out of ten; and this will not include the thousands who have stayed at home, to say nothing of the million or more whose modesty will not permit them to advance their "claims," but who cast longing eyes at places of trust and profit. It is the besetting sin of Americans to want to hold office. With the great mass of appointments which will be made within the next thirty days, we have nothing more than a general interest. The opportunity is favorable for a great reform in the civil service. Faithful and efficient men can be retained; indifferent, dishonest and incapable men can be removed, and their places properly filled; and many existing abuses can be lopped off. The President is serving for his second and last term, and can have no possible motive to make his appointments from the policy stand point merely. There is no re-election to be provided for, and hence there can be no temptations to depart from the standards of capacity, honesty, and efficiency. The appointments which most concern us, however, are those which relate to the Territories, and particularly for Colorado. What we say in regard to our own Territory may be applied to all of them. For years the Territories have been a sort of a "Botany Bay," or a hospital for worn out political hacks, and adventurers who have been shipped out to the frontier to plunder the people, misgovern them, and betray their confidence, and make themselves generally odious. It is not too much to say that the people of the frontier would have been justified in hanging immediately upon their arrival some of the officials who have been sent out to administer their laws. Within the past few years there has been considerable reform in the matter of territorial appointments, and especially under President Grant. As we understand it he is pledged to fill our offices with citizens of the Territory. Nearly all federal positions in Colorado are now filled by her own citizens. Whether they be reappointed or not we demand that whatever changes be made, the new appointees shall be resident citizens of Colorado. We have citizens, enough of them, of ample executive, judicial and administrative capacities to honorably and successfully fill every federal office within the gift of the President for Colorado. From them let nominations be made. Mr. Chaffee should oppose, in the most relentless and uncompromising manner, the appointment of any man for this territory who is not a citizen thereof. Citizenship should be the first qualification for a Colorado appointment. The application of every other man should be promptly rejected. We ask it as a right; not as a favor. If Congress will not give us statehood, the President can at least allow us to be governed by our own citizens, especially since we have those who are fully capable and competent. Let him take a firm stand in this matter; reject the "claims" of all that vast horde of adventurers who will be pressed upon him for territorial positions, and allow Colorado to be governed, and her laws administered by Colorado men.—*Denver News.*

The Credit Mobilier Report and Oakes Ames.

It appears from the report itself and the evidence taken before it, that Mr. Ames was one of the leading managers of the Union Pacific railroad company, that the Credit Mobilier was formed for the purpose of building the road, that the great work could not be accomplished until Mr. Ames took the whole thing upon his shoulders, staked the

whole of his large fortune on the fate of the road, and determined to build it if it ruined him. No capitalists could be induced to invest in it, but Mr. Ames saw that it could be done, and it is in evidence that the project which he undertook was considered by railroad men as extremely hazardous, and it so happened that the terms and conditions on which he offered to build it turned out to be advantageous. Of that no just complaint can be made. If he had failed in it, he would have been ruined, and perhaps many others connected with it. As it was the contract was successful and money was made on it, and by previous arrangement the profit inured to the advantage of the stockholders of the Credit Mobilier. It was a tremendous risk, and like all other risks, there was a chance of great profit, and Oakes Ames and his associates risked the losing of all their property. This position is sustained by all the railroad men of the country; there was a time when the prospects of the completion of the road were very dark indeed, and when success crowned the efforts of the men of courage who stood by it, fault is found, and that years after the event, with the way in which the thing was accomplished.

The value of the railroad to the country need not now be enlarged upon. It has saved the government already immense sums in transportation of mails and supplies, ten or twelve million dollars at least. The nation could afford it if it had cost twice as much, and the part it is yet destined to perform in the development of the country through which it passes, and in adding to our wealth and strength, can be but dimly foreseen. It is an accomplished fact, and one of the grandest and most wonderful achievements of modern times. To have been the one to whom above all others the country is indebted for the road and its advantages is enough for any man's highest ambition and honor.

The country cannot afford to recompense one who has served it so well, with any, the least measure of disgrace. No report of an investigating committee, no aspersions of interested opponents, or of selfish politicians can lower Mr. Ames in the estimation of those who know his integrity, his honor, his enterprise and business ability shown in all his long and honorable life, and especially in the severe trials which it is well known he has gone through since these things happened. Out of them all he has come with a bright and untarnished name, which stands and will stand unimpeached in the minds of his thousands of friends and acquaintances in spite of the exparte report of this or any other committee of investigation.

The report finds that Mr. Ames sold stock in his company to members of Congress. So he and his friends did to thousands of others. Members of Congress had a right to buy it, and he had a right to sell it. The committee do him and the congressional holders of stock the unwilling justice to say that neither he nor they had any corrupt motive or intent in so doing, and that their action as members of Congress was not affected in any way by being stockholders. All who know Mr. Ames will believe him when he says that his hands and his heart were true and free and innocent of any wrong intent. The paltry amounts involved negative any such idea. He did nothing under a bushel. He made no secret of his disposition of stock. It looks on the face of it as if his kindness and desire to do a good thing for his friends prompted the transactions. Moreover it is certain that the position and condition of the company were well known by financial men in business centres, and his transactions with the members of Congress were as well known in and out of Congress at the time they occurred. If there was wrong and bribery and corruption in them, why were they not then taken notice of? The Congress of 1867-68 was as honorable and pure as the Congress of to-day. A panic seemed to seize upon the members whose names have been drawn into this investigation, and their denials and defective memories have given an undue prominence and a color of suspicion to the transactions, which has damaged their reputations much more than it will permanently affect that of Mr. Ames. He has acted consistently throughout, he has no denial of fact and no perjury to bear the reproach of.

The interest of the country in the

investigation long since changed from the matters at first put in issue, and centered in the bungling efforts of certain individuals to extricate themselves from positions in which their own prevarication placed them. The name of Oakes Ames will come out of the trial untarnished, while the honorable reputations of some others, we are sorry to say, will not be saved by the labored attempt of the committee's report, or of anybody or party of men in Congress, to make the former the scapegoat to bear the sins of Mr. Ames.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

The Saints vs. the Saints.

The Utah bill: A bill founded on false pretenses, oppressive in its provisions, and demonstrating the utter ignorance and equal indifference to their duty of the majority of the Senate of the United States, was taken up and passed on Wednesday. It should have been entitled, "A bill to worry and oppress the people of Utah; to interfere with their domestic relations and religious belief, and to drive them, if possible, into a war in which they may be stripped and pillaged." Whatever may be the theological views or household practices of the Mormons, they are their own. With the one the Constitution expressly forbids all interference; the other—as any novice in legislation ought to know—does not fall within the province of law-making. It lies below the place where government begins.

The people of the Territories of the United States are at the mercy of Congress, being without representation. This should impress upon members the obligation they are under to treat them with that consideration to which the helpless are entitled. They are a common constituency, whose rights each is bound to see protected. However justly or sincerely the shining lights of the world—of which Congress has its proportion—may condemn the beliefs or abhor the practices of these subjects of the Government, there is no denying their humanity. They are men and women, endowed by nature with the same rights as other men and women; rights which can neither be taken away nor diminished without criminality on the part of those by whom the robbery is committed. They are sincere; the sufferings which they have borne for the sake of their faith leave no doubt of their sincerity. If they have now and then done that which would better have been omitted, let those who would condemn them remember the provocation. Few people of modern times have been more vilely slandered, few more perseveringly pursued; and the slanders have been invented as the means to justify the persecution. Portray them as vile as they have been represented: they have been surrounded and tormented by those who are vile. Human wolves followed and snarled at their heels all the way of their wearisome pilgrimage from Illinois: such a pilgrimage as no people, from any other than a religious purpose, would ever have undertaken.

Human beings who have made such sacrifices for their faith are apt to resent interferences in its enjoyment with bitterness. There are no hatreds which bear any comparison in their intensity with theological hatreds. The Mormon has been intense against the blasphemer of his creed and the defamer of his practices, and he would have been either more or less than human had he been otherwise. Is he to be punished for this? Is this a justification for robbing him of rights whose sacredness and inalienability we, in the persons of our ancestors, claim to have been the foremost to discover and declare? Is it here that can be found an excuse for laws, not to pursue and punish guilty individuals, but to establish that which is itself persecution, and leads directly to conflict and robbery?

It is humiliating that in the advance of this movement, its prompter, and the force which turns a spirit compounded of covetousness and intolerance into a legislative fact, is the President of the United States. It is here that the country encounters the danger which comes from having at the head of the State a man who is not a statesman, and who is compelled to rely upon the promptings of others for the direction of his acts. What feelings of private dislike General Grant may have against the Mormons, it

is not in order to inquire; but why a man, who is in general placable, should, in this case, exhibit the phenomena of combined malice and bigotry, is a question that many have found difficult of solution. That he will interpose his dissent to this bill of abominations is not to be expected.—*Washington Capital, March 2.*

The Coal Famine in England.

Some persons who have heard of the present price of coal have imagined that coal itself was scarce: not only scarce in the market, which no doubt it is, but scarce in the mine also. But this is a complete mistake. The commissioners in 1870 reported that there was 143,480,000,000 of tons which might reasonably be expected to be available for use, and that, as the rate of annual consumption was in 1869 a little over 100,000,000, we have plainly enough coal in the mine for many years. What has happened in the coal trade, though very important, is very simple. There was, as is well known, an unusual demand for coal—a demand greatly in excess of the usual supply. The prices consequently rose rapidly. A large number of laborers saw their employers—the coal-owners—were getting very unusual profits and becoming rapidly very rich, and they naturally thought that as their labor wrought out the coal, they were entitled to share largely in those profits; and they thought, also, that by striking they could exact a rise of wages, and so obtain that share. The strikes reduced the quantity of coal in the markets, and the consequence is a great rise of price. At first sight that rise might seem not only great but extravagant. But not so if we examine it. Coal is for many purposes an absolute necessity, and it is a familiar maxim of political economy, that a real scarcity of any necessary—though that scarcity is not large, though it is a small fraction only in comparison of the whole supply—will very much raise the price of the article. Everybody wants the article, but there is not enough of it for everybody; the competition becomes very eager, and the prices very high. In this way the price of corn has often risen by a large percentage, when the yield of the harvest has been deficient only by a small percentage. And as coal is a necessary, its value in this case, as in others, must follow the economic law.

THE USE OF COAL.

The extent to which coal is a necessary is best seen by analyzing the ways in which it is used. Common people have their thoughts engrossed by common house coal, but that is only a small part of the matter, as will be seen from a most valuable table which the commission of 1871 gives us:

	Tons.
Total quantity of coal raised in 1869	107,427,557
Total quantity of coal exported in 1869	9,775,470
Leaving for home consumption	97,652,087
Coal used in iron manufacture	32,446,606
Coal used in general manufacture for steam power and other purposes	25,327,213
Coal used in metallurgies, other than iron	850,231
Coal used in mines and collieries	7,225,423
Coal used in gas and water works	7,811,980
Coal used in steamships	3,277,562
Coal used on railways	2,027,500
Domestic consumption	18,481,527
Miscellaneous	195,045
Total	97,652,087

The domestic use in coal, is therefore, not a fifth of the total amount used in this country. The iron industry alone consumes nearly twice as much. Coal is the motive power of our manufactures; it is to them what the steam engine is to the train; it is that which puts them in motion and keeps them in motion. If there were no coal the whole of these industries would stop, and all those employed in them must be disbanded. Therefore at a time when the whole business of the country is in most rapid progress—when it starts forward, as Mr. Gladstone says, not "by steps, but by leaps and bounds," the demand for coal becomes enormous. It is as necessary to our manufactures as food is to man. If you want them to work, you must nourish not only him with food, but them with coal. Accordingly in the controversy as to the progress of our coal mines towards extinction, the critical question has always been at what pace will our manufactures advance, and at what rate will they consume coal? On

this subject the commissioners were at issue with Mr. Jevons. They said that the consumption would go on at a slower rate; he at a quicker. But as yet Mr. Jevons has been right. For the last few years the increase in the consumption has been as much as he said it would be. When we receive the figure for 1872 we suspect that we shall find that for that year it was vastly more. There never before was any such demand for coal as there has been this year, for there never was so great an iron trade or so large a general business to require it.

THE LABORER'S PLEA.

Nothing can be more natural than that the laborers employed in such a trade should fancy that they were not only entitled to one advance of wages, but to many. The owners of the mines in which they worked were getting rich, why should not they? And of course it was the interest of the masters to make many concessions, to use so good an opportunity before it was over, and to make hay while the sun shone. But there is no permanent reason why the men who work in very profitable mines should be paid more than those who work in less profitable. That profit is gained by the possession of a valuable monopoly, but these men have no monopoly. They have learnt a very disagreeable employment, in which there is little skill, which requires but little learning, which most men of the sort wanted could soon learn. If such persons are paid exceedingly high wages, more laborers will throng to obtain those wages, and the excessive rate will soon come down. When a mine becomes very profitable very rapidly, it is but natural that the laborers in it should envy the income of its owner, but there is no reason—at least no lasting reason—why they should share it. They may make good terms for a moment, but the evident condition of human life will be too strong for them in the end. The owner has something of great value which others have not, and they have no such thing; he, therefore, will continue to receive a prize income, but they must not hope for it.

THE PROSPECT.

No unusual price of coal can, therefore, be due permanently to the high wages exacted by the laborers in coal mines. High wages can have on the price of coal no effect which they have not on the price of all other articles. And it is equally untrue that "combinations" among coal-owners, of which much has been said, can permanently affect the price. The coal trade is in too many hands for such combinations, and coal mining is too open a pursuit. Such prices as we now see will bring out all the coal which the present mines can furnish, and many new mines will be opened. No artificial scarcity can be maintained when prices are so tempting and so high. The cost of production will in the end regulate the price of coal, as of all other articles—the cost of production, that is to say, under the least favorable circumstances. The worst mine lastingly in the market, the worst mine which can be kept at work, and which will yield its owner the average rate of profit, is the mine which will determine the price. The worst circumstanced producer who can keep in the market will fix what the article, in this case as in all others, shall be sold at. Better circumstanced producers will sell at the same price and gain a greater profit. The mine which just pays, and no more, settles the price. The owner of it gets all he can, and if he is satisfied the owners of better mines can sell at the same price, and be more than satisfied. Ultimately, therefore, the cost of producing coal will determine the value of it, as of all similar articles. But in the meantime what will happen? Pending the course of this slow process, during the development of old mines and the opening of new ones, we have to meet a scarcity-value of coal, and how shall we meet it? We must enforce an economy in consumption, and this, though very painful, is very possible. At present almost all kinds of industry are working their full maximum, but some of them, perhaps all of them, must cease to work that maximum. The high price of coal will, of itself, effect this. It will cause many orders not to be profitable which otherwise would have been so. These orders will, in consequence, be rejected. The machinery which