

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Quite a number of propositions have been made recently to amend the Constitution of the United States. It is true that the conditions of this country are changing, because the country is growing and its interests are annually becoming more important. Questions are continually arising which the founders of the nation did not contemplate and for which they could not make direct provision. And these have required and may yet require amendments to that written Constitution, which is alike the protection of the citizens and the authority of the government.

But tinkering with that sacred instrument ought to be avoided. The method provided for its amendment is a wise provision. Both Houses of Congress by a two-thirds vote must first agree to propose an amendment before it is ratified by the respective States, unless a convention is called for that purpose by applications of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States; and in either case the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, or conventions duly called therein, must ratify the proposed amendment, or it will not become part of the supreme law of the land.

There are two propositions for amendments which are receiving some consideration, and which, in our opinion had better be left alone by the General Government. They are, common school and compulsory education, and a general system of marriage and divorce. Neither of these in our opinion are proper subjects for national legislation under the system of government that has so far been preserved in this country. The proposal to engraft them upon the national stock is in that spirit of centralization and encroachment upon the rights of the respective States, which has become active since the civil war. It not only looks to an enlargement of Federal powers, but to a diminution of local rights. It tends to the absorption of the confederation of republics called the Union, into one solidified Nation in which local self-government will be measurably lost.

The domestic affairs of each independent commonwealth of the United States belong to itself and should be controlled and managed by its own regulations. Marriage, divorce, education and kindred matters, if they belong to the State at all are subjects for each local sovereignty, not for the General Government. The question of secession having been settled by a resort to arms, there is no fear of the respective States asserting to great authority over their own affairs. That the Union is one and indivisible is now universally conceded. Each State is bound by indissoluble contract to all the other States. But each preserves its own identity. And the danger lies in the disposition to vest in the Federal Government powers that of right belong to the States or to the people. No one who watches the drift of affairs can help seeing that this is the course which the country is taking. A strong government is all right, if that strength does not mean the grasping of prerogatives that rightfully belong to the individuals of the national partnership.

The discordant condition of the marriage laws existing in this country forms a very plausible excuse for the demand for a national system. That is clearly at present outside of the control of the National Government. Nothing but an amendment to the Constitution will bring it within that power. If there was no other way to remedy the evil complained of there would be some excuse for a change in public policy. But why cannot there be a mutual understanding between the respective States, and a modification of local laws to rectify existing wrongs and establish harmony? This would be far better than to take another huge step towards centralization. Such a relinquishment of States' rights would be in the most dangerous direction. And the exercise of power over the domestic affairs of the people which it would authorize in the General Government, would be out of harmony with the general spirit and tenor of the National Constitution.

The overplus in the Treasury, brought in by excessive taxation, offers a seeming excuse for national interference with the cause of education. It is proposed to distribute much of this surplus among the States and Territories to aid in the common school systems there prevailing. This necessarily suggests certain provisions and restrictions, thereby bringing that which should be purely local under Federal supervision. The Bland bill, for this purpose, has passed the Senate. It is to be hoped that it will be set down upon in the House. The temptation to members to get what they can of this money for use in their respective districts will be great. But a Democrat who cannot see through this Republican scheme must be blind indeed. It is designed not only to carry favor with the people, who will think it very liberal to disburse this cash to aid in educating their children, but to extend the centralizing idea and vest further powers in the General Government at the expense of the local governments.

Each of these movements ought to be met with sturdy opposition at the hands of those who value the system established by the fathers of our country and desire its perpetuation. These steps secured, other ground will be taken, until, by degrees, the whole constitution and fabric of our govern-

ment will be changed and the principle of a Union of separate and individual commonwealths, joined by common interests and sympathies for mutual protection and the general benefit, will be swept away and a strong Nation, with a big "N," will take its place, to the ultimate extinction of those sovereign powers which are now reserved, in theory, to the respective States or to the people. The wise should be warned in time.

AN EPOCH OF COMMOTION.

This is a day of strange occurrences. Among its marvels the earthquake in England of last Tuesday may be counted. But one need not be surprised at anything in this peculiar age. We are passing through an epoch of commotion, extending not only to the affairs of men, but also to the earth's interior.

It may be said that the world always has been afflicted with dire disasters in various forms, which is to some extent true. But it is a subject of general remark, coupled with some degree of concern, that there has been a most alarming increase of such visitations of late years, especially within the last decade. Instead of coming singly, they appear in gigantic clusters.

Many religious people who believe in the second advent of Jesus Christ are of opinion that these afflictions are the precursors of His coming, in harmony with His own predictions when He dwelt in mortality. Joseph Smith asserted that the Lord would make His appearance in the present age, and gave numerous details concerning the judgments that were to precede that event. Speaking of the labors of the Elders in preaching the fulness of the Gospel as a witness before the coming of the end, the following words occur in a revelation given in December, 1832: "For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand." Another form of judgment predicted is "Many destructions upon the waters." Also "an overflowing scourge." The "sec heaving itself beyond bounds" was to be a prominent form of judgment upon the wicked. In the Book of Mormon, the Prophet Nephi speaks of commotions and disturbances among men in the latter days and says: "And there shall be secret combinations." Also, "For the time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people, and the wicked shall be destroyed."

Some of the calamities described in the revelations given through Joseph Smith, which are to visit the world in course of time, are of surpassing horror, such as the scourge of flies that will eat the flesh of the people and cause maggots to come upon them until their flesh will drop from their bones and their eyes from their sockets, and still they will curse God and die. Wind, hail and other storms of remarkable severity are predicted. In fact all the forms of calamity and destruction which have fallen so thickly and disastrously upon the people in various parts of the world of late are described in detail in the revelations given through Joseph Smith.

These things are the forerunners of Christ's coming, the Gospel of preparation having been revealed through the medium of which a way of escape has been provided for the obedient and faithful. It is now being preached among the Gentiles. When their fullness has come in it will be withdrawn from them and carried to the House of Israel. The Jews will gather upon the land of their fathers, and then shall the great event occur which has been pointed to by the finger of prophecy from the beginning of the world—the advent of the Son of Man. All these commotions are but the heralds of His coming day.

THE INDICTMENT FOR POLYGAMY.

The indictment and arrest of Rudger Clawson on the charge of polygamy and unlawful cohabitation, direct renewed attention to the grand jury empanelled at the present term of the Third District Court. We expressed our views concerning its illegality at the time of its organization. We do not know whether any objection has yet been legally interposed to the doings of that body, but we believe that this case will furnish a fitting opportunity to test the question as to its status.

The grand jury has been undoubtedly packed for a purpose, and that purpose is the indictment of certain individuals suspected of having violated a provision of the Edmunds law. In order to effect this, all "Mormons" were carefully excluded from the panel. No one who admitted belief in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, containing the tenets of the "Mormon" Church, was allowed to serve as a grand juror. There was no law for this. But Section Five of the Edmunds Act was made to do service in this direction. As we have previously shown by quoting the section in full, it has special and only reference to petit juries, as the whole section hangs on the words: "In any case of

prosecution for bigamy, polygamy, or unlawful cohabitation," etc. A prosecution for either of these offences does not commence until after an indictment, and an indictment must be found by a grand jury previously empanelled, therefore the section of the law which permits a trial juror to be excluded from the panel if he believes it right to have more than one living and undivorced wife at the same time, has no application to a grand juror and cannot be lawfully used for his rejection.

But the grand jury that has indicted Rudger Clawson was empanelled in that way, the provision of law intended only in the case of trial jurors being used as a challenge to grand jurors, to the exclusion of a large number who were qualified by law to serve. This in our opinion makes the body that framed the indictment an illegal grand jury and renders all its indictments void, at any rate invalidates all its indictments for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation.

And if it is claimed that the section of the Edmunds law respecting challenges to trial jurors applies equally to grand jurors, there is yet a defect in the organization of the grand jury now in session. It is still a packed jury. For while citizens were excluded because of their belief in the rightfulness of plural marriage, no challenge was interposed in the case of the accepted jurors either as to their belief in bigamy or polygamy, or their belief in or practice of cohabitation with more than one woman. Persons recognized as "Mormons" were challenged and rejected, those who were known as non-"Mormons" were accepted without challenge.

The whole arrangement was a travesty on law and justice, and the grand jury so chosen is an inquisition specially organized to indict in certain cases on the smallest amount of testimony, in order to bring the accused before a petit jury packed in like manner to convict on the slenderest evidence. We do not know whether or not there are good grounds for the indictment against Rudger Clawson. Suspicion has pointed its finger in his direction, and Rumor has wagged her tongue about him, but these are not proofs. Those who have promoted this prosecution will take some pleasure in putting him to expense and inconvenience. We do not think the indictment will hold good, for the reasons we have named, and therefore believe that the bottom will fall out of the whole thing. The illegality of the grand jury will, we should suppose, be sprung at the commencement of the trial and it will no doubt be carried up and fully tested.

WHO WILL GET IT?

The Republican nomination for the Presidency remains a matter of doubt, as among the names spoken of in connection with the candidacy, none seems so specially prominent as to render it a matter of certainty. At present, however, Arthur and Blaine appear to be leading. The chances of the former seem to be the stronger. It occasionally happens, however, that the nomination is awarded to some man who has not been previously spoken of in public in connection with it. This occurs when two strong men are up and the contest is tolerably even, then a compromise candidate is offered and accepted.

One consideration in favor of Chester A. Arthur's nomination is the fact of his having the favor of the moneyed men of the country. We observe that those journals which are known to be controlled by wealthy men of business are generally pronounced on the side of Arthur's being the choice. Among those is the New York Mail and Express, which is understood to be the creature of Cyrus W. Field.

Money wields a powerful lever in political affairs, and the man who secures the goodwill of the wealthy business circles stands a prominent chance of attaining the object of his ambition. The reason for Mr. Arthur's having secured the smiles of the possessors of wealth is doubtless because of his characteristically placid administration. He is essentially conservative. He is not a disturber of existing conditions. An erratic or spasmodic man will never secure the good will of the capitalists. They do not want a man of unsteady ways, liable to extremes, such perhaps as Mr. Blaine. Capital is sensitive and values are easily thrown from their balance. An administration that would occasion or make probable rapid changes is not desired by those who have large means invested in various enterprises.

There is an evenness about Mr. Arthur that causes capitalists to believe that a continuation of his administration would be safe, and that while another man's might be equally secure, changes to untried channels always involve more or less risk. Under those considerations, the present President appears to stand a fair prospect of securing the Republican Nomination.

THE FASTEST YET.

The increase in the rate of speed attained by "ocean greyhounds"—as the fast steamers are sometimes called—warrants the expectation that the Atlantic will soon be crossed within six

days. The Guion steamer Oregon recently outstripped every former record by making the trip in six days, ten hours and eight minutes. This is the fastest passage ever made. It is a rapid advance in speed, as it beats the next best time—that of the Alaska last September—by nearly half a day.

The Guion is the line which carries the Church emigration from Europe. The vessels of the company are made on the Clyde, and those which have been constructed for them for a number of years have been in the very highest style of the ship-building art, with a special view to speed. In the pursuit of excellence they have spared no expense, the result being that the Guion line is second to none in existence, having taken much of the prestige which formerly attached to the Cunard.

The brief time occupied by some ocean steamers as compared with that of slower boats in crossing from Queenstown to New York causes the New York Herald to raise the question as to the comparative value of a quick and slow passage, even to steerage passengers. It suggests that the preponderance of traffic will naturally flow to the companies owning fast steamers, and that the price should be reduced for fares on the slower vessels in order to equalize it.

So far as the English companies are concerned the rates are regulated by a board of trade, and are uniform, except in the case of the "Mormon" emigration which has the advantage of a cheaper rate, with the understanding that all other lines have the privilege of competing for that special trade. Those carrying the Church emigration are bound by a board of trade regulation not to carry in the "Mormon" companies any other class of steerage passengers at the reduced rates.

AN EXEMPLARY INDIAN.

OGDEN CITY, Utah,
April 24, 1884,

Editor Deseret News:

The funeral services over the remains of

LITTLE SOLDIER,

Indian Chief, who died in this city on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., were held this morning. Besides Soldier's family and other Lamanites, quite a number of white people were present on the occasion, to do honor to the remains and pay a tribute of respect to the memory of one who, notwithstanding his early habits and the color of his skin, is said by those who knew him best to have been one of

NATURE'S NOBLEMEN.

The services were held at the lodge of deceased on the bench-land, west side of Weber River, and conducted by Bishop Robert McQuarrie. After the family and friends of deceased were arranged in order around the bier of the

DEPARTED BRAVE

The choir sang.

"Mourn not the dead who peaceful lay Their wearied bodies down," etc.

The opening prayer was offered by Elder Joseph Hall, after which Bishop George W. Hill, who had been acquainted with Little Soldier for thirty-five years addressed the congregation. He first spoke briefly to the white people in English, and then addressed the Lamanites in their

OWN LANGUAGE.

In which he spoke of the past life and character of the deceased as he (the speaker) had known him for many years. Bishop Hill said Little Soldier was an honest, upright man. He was also truthful and unswerving in his integrity. Before he embraced the Gospel he was in his manner of life, like many other wild men of the Mountains, besides which he had adopted some of the habits of

MODERN CIVILIZATION,

and was addicted to drinking the white Christian? man's firewater, and on this account on his first application to Brother Hill he was refused that rite, but he told Brother Hill he had ceased to drink whisky, and further said that he was determined thenceforward never to touch the poisonous drug any more. The speaker said he knew that Little Soldier had faithfully kept his word, in this regard and also the covenants he made in the House of the Lord. Bishop Hill told the widow, children and friends of deceased that they need not utter one loud exclamation of sorrow for him. Father had called him and he had gone to rest in peace. He further said at the proper time when all things were prepared, Little Soldier will return again to live with them

UPON THE EARTH.

When it is purified and cleansed from wickedness. He closed by exhorting them to be faithful, to emulate the examples of their father, husband and brother, and they will be united with him when he comes back to them in the morning of the first resurrection. The remarks were listened to by his audience with profound attention and interest, and contrary to the usual custom of the Lamanites on all similar occasions, all loud demonstrations of grief were suppressed.

Bishop McQuarrie made a few appropriate remarks which were inter-

preted to the Indians in the Ute language. Notwithstanding, they understand a great deal of what is said to them in English.

The choir sang:

O, my Father, thou that dwellest
In thy high and glorious place.

The benediction was pronounced by Elder Thomas Doxey.

The casket containing the remains was then placed in a carriage, followed by a large cortege, conveyed to Ogden Cemetery and deposited

IN THEIR SILENT HOME.

After which the dedicatory prayer was delivered by Bishop George W. Hill.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

While at the lodge this morning I gleaned a few interesting items of the history of the deceased, and here I will observe that he never was known to the people here by any other name than "Little Soldier;" by that name he received all the ordinances of the Church, and always persistently refused to give his Indian name, alleging as a reason therefor that it was a bad one. No other Indians, if he knew it, could be induced to tell it.

Little Soldier's father's name was "To-Nights." Where he was born or when he died I did not learn, but he was buried by D. B. Huntington's Springs. His mother's name was Tsome-Pom-Pitch.

Little Soldier was born in Red Butte Cañon, near Salt Lake City, about the year 1821. His family consisted of four wives, three of whom are dead. One of his former wives had five children, another had one. His present spouse had six papooses. She was born in Cottonwood Cañon, near to where the rock is quarried for the Salt Lake Temple, and close to a large pine tree, hence her name, Wango-Be-Da. He has also three grandchildren living. Little Soldier was

ASWAYS A BRAVE

Among his people—valiant in battle—defending the rights or redressing the wrongs of his tribe. In the year 1849, he had a terrible fight with "Stick-in-head"—(Wovitch) chief of a band of Utes, who came from the south, and attacked those in the north country.

The struggle took place in what is now known as Taylor's Cañon, near this city. In turning an abrupt point Novitch and Little Soldier suddenly came in sight of each other. They dashed forward, clinched, fell to the ground and rose again; Little Soldier was about to dispatch his antagonist, when the latter adroitly drew himself

OUT OF HIS SHIRT

and shot off to the mountains with remarkable great speed, leaving the former master of the field, and his band of Lamanites unmolested. His influence among his people was always immense, they looked to him as their leader, and it was in 1849 that he became their chief.

In 1874 he was baptised by George W. Hill, in Cub River, Cache County. In 1875 he received his blessings in the House of the Lord, which he appreciated, and to which he always remained true and faithful.

Some months since a quarrel ensued between two Indians, in which firearms were discharged. One drunken Indian was wounded and several shots passed through the wick-a-up of Little Soldier. This fact among the tribes was always considered a

FATAL OMEN,

and most surely foreboded death to the house. Little Soldier never could shake off the effects of this tradition of his fathers, and, indeed, he never recovered from the shock occasioned by it. About three weeks since he grew worse, became much debilitated, and confined to his lodge. He never rallied, but as above stated, on the 22nd inst., succumbed to the power of death.

He was a peaceful, honest, inoffensive man, a friend to the "Mormon" people, and was always a welcome guest at the houses of many people in this county. Peace to his ashes.

WEBER.

AN ANCIENT DOCUMENT.

We publish to-day the full text of a translation from the original Greek, of the manuscript entitled "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles." It is no doubt a work of great antiquity and may date back, as claimed, to the second century. It must not be supposed by the title, that it was written by the Apostles or either of them; it merely purports to be an epitome of their doctrines or teachings. There is much in it which bears evidence of early Christian influence and understanding of correct principle, but here and there "the wise" will detect the marks of that spirit of error which worked its way into the Church in very early times, and ultimately overspread the entire organization and covered the minds of men with thick darkness.

One of the principal indications of the tendency to lean towards error, even in those early days, is seen in Chapter Seven where baptism is defined. The compromise permitted, of pouring water in certain cases, is a plain departure from the one way of the Lord, and would not have been allowed by a true Apostle of Jesus Christ. The injunctions against "prophets" who sought their own emolument rather than the welfare of the people,