

foes to rear monumental falsehoods? It is well to greatly embody a great idea, but you want to get the great idea first."

As an illustration of the correctness of this view—but for the faith, reverence and noble aspirations of those who erected them, the magnificent temples of the Latter-day Saints would be comparatively meaningless. To the people who produced them they have a beauty, and are the expression of ideas and truth that are not comprehended by any other class. Without the faith, hope and reverence which inspired the builders the edifices would be lifeless. As it is they are objects of intense active interest, because they are embodiments of elevated truths, thoughts and aspirations, while their uses are, to those who erected them, of the most sacred character.

NOT AN HONORABLE TRANSACTION

THE recall of Captain Borup, an attache of the American embassy at Paris, sheds a glimmer of light upon the intricacies of international diplomacy. He was charged by the French authorities with having purchased from a French government clerk copies of documents descriptive of certain defenses of France and selling them to Germany and Italy.

The evidence must have been very strong against the American officer, otherwise our government would probably not have been so precipitate in recalling him. Washington authorities are represented as stating that they do not believe he is guilty of the charge preferred against him, and that the action in the case was taken simply "in the interest of harmony."

Of course it is diplomatic to state that Captain Borup was notified to return home simply to please the French government, but to a man on top of the Eiffel tower and looking down it would seem as if the charge was not entirely groundless. Beliefs or professed beliefs do not smash facts, which are stubborn and "hard to ding."

If the Captain did give the French defenses away to the German and Italian governments he ought to have something added to his recall, in the way of showing the American disapproval of that species of underhand international traffic.

THE CHOOSING OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

A DISPATCH from Lansing, Michigan, states that the Miner election law declared constitutional on the 17th ult. by the State Supreme Court will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States for final adjudication. Five judges constitute the Michigan Supreme Court, three of whom are Republicans, the two others being Democrats. Inasmuch as the issue of constitutionality was raised by leaders of the Republican party, it seems that the Michigan tribunal did not favor party in its decision. Michigan has been overwhelmingly Republican ever since 1860, until 1890, when the Democrats took all the State offices and both branches of the legislature.

One of the first measures passed by the Democratic legislature and assented to by Governor Winans was what is now known as the Miner election law, which relates entirely to presidential electors. For thirty years Michigan had chosen her electors by the usual method now prevailing in all the States, that is by vote of the citizens of the State at large. The Miner law provided for the election of district presidential electors by congressional districts, instead of by the State at large. Michigan under the new reapportionment has twelve representatives in the House at Washington and two senators. She is, according to the Constitution of the United States, entitled to fourteen presidential electors, chosen in whatever way her State legislature may decide. The Miner law provides for the election of twelve of these by congressional districts, and divides the State into two districts for the senatorial electors.

The State Republican Committee took up the law and resolved to test its constitutionality in the courts. About half a dozen exceptions were taken, but the main one rests on the words of the second section of the fourteenth amendment, which reads: "When the right to vote at any election for the choice of Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States * * * is denied, etc." It is contended that by choice of electors is meant the whole body of State electors, and that every citizen must vote for the whole college, and not for one individual. The State Supreme Court decided that the law was constitutional, and furthermore it held that the power of the legislature in providing for any method of selection was beyond controversy.

History seems to justify the decision of the court. At the first Presidential election in 1788-9 eleven States participated. Five different ways of choosing electors were adopted. Pennsylvania and Virginia elected by popular vote of the citizens of the State at large—the same method which now prevails. Maryland elected by popular vote but by Congressional districts, the same as the Miner law now provides for. In Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, South Carolina, and Georgia the legislatures chose the Presidential electors. In New Hampshire the citizens at large nominated the electors, but the legislature rejected or confirmed. The State was near losing its electoral vote, a deadlock sprang up between both houses in regard to the confirmation, broken only a few minutes before 12 midnight of January 7th, 1789. New York adopted the same plan, and a like deadlock occurred in the legislature which could not be removed; hence the Empire State was not represented in the college which elected George Washington first President of the United States. Massachusetts was divided into Congressional districts. The citizens of each district selected two persons. The names of all so chosen went before the legislature, which selected one for each district and two for the State at large.

Subsequent elections were carried out in similar ways, but by 1860 all the States in the Union except South Carolina had adopted the old Pennsylvania and Virginia plan. After recon-

struction, South Carolina adopted the prevailing system, which became the universal method until the Michigan Miner law was enacted in 1890.

GOLD EXPORTS.

DURING the week ending June 25th, 1892, \$5,250,000 in gold was shipped to Europe. Nearly \$10,000,000 in gold was shipped during the two preceding weeks, making in all \$15,000,000. The draw continues during the current week, and financial circles in New York begin to show signs of uneasiness. Of course various causes are assigned for this movement, and in the speculations and theories promulgated is involved the whole currency question.

Nearly all the gold which has left this country during the past three weeks has gone to Germany. It is supposed the Bank of Germany is paying a premium on specie. Austria, which has been for sometime a silver standard country, has recently adopted the gold standard. She requires about \$100,000,000 in gold to inaugurate her new financial policy. She has already acquired about half of this sum, and it is thought that by means of German agents she is thus obtaining the remainder.

The mechanical exports for eleven months, ending June 1st, were \$210,000,000 larger than imports for the same period, yet gold has been leaving this country since January last. This is the question which puzzles the average financier; with such an enormous balance of trade in favor of the United States, why does her gold leave the country?

In 1886 the United States treasury held \$200,000,000 in gold, against \$490,000,000 in the banks of England, France and Germany. At the present time the United States treasury has only \$114,000,000 in gold, against \$627,000,000 in the three banks above mentioned. This is another puzzle.

It is possible that the thousands of wealthy Americans who visit Europe annually, and distribute their gold in the shoddy pleasures and enervating festivities of European capitals, may not have something to do in the matter. Americans have been making themselves quite conspicuous abroad of late. The story of Mr. Bacon in France and of Mr. Coleman Drayton in England, and the Baroness de Steuers in Germany, may give a clue to our gold exports.

ADLAI "THE JUST."

THE Christian name of the Democratic candidate for Vice-President seems to be somewhat of a puzzle to a great many. It is not a new one, and is strictly Biblical. In Chronicles, Book 1, chap. 27, verse 29 we read: "And over the herds that fed in Sharon was Shitral the Sharonite, and over the herds that were in the valleys were Shaphat, the son of Adlai."

The full name of the man now of national celebrity is Adlai Ewing Stephenson. Adlai means "the just," and Democrats look upon it as ominous of success next November.