

the patent. It is now in the United States Supreme Court and will necessarily perish through inanition—nothing to live on. It thus amounts to a *post mortem* victory for the monopoly.

We are advised that another telephone patent will expire next year, but even then the field will not be open for free competition. While what is known as the Berliner patent continues in force, the opportunity of others to compete with the Bell company will be limited. Emil Berliner applied in 1877 for a patent on a microphone transmitter. The Bell telephone is of high utility as a receiver, the Berliner microphone is an excellent transmitter, and the two form a complete system. The Berliner invention was bought by the Bell Company in 1878. The application for a patent was suffered to remain in abeyance for nearly fourteen years, during which interval it is charged that the drawings and models were surreptitiously altered. Finally in 1891 the patent was issued, and unless court proceedings are more successful than they were in the Bell case, half the telephone invention will remain protected by a patent until 1908. It should be known in this connection, however, that the government has a suit pending to set aside this patent, for several reasons, and Congress will be asked for a special law giving the case precedence in the Supreme Court, pending which the free telephonic competition which many looked for with the expiration of the Bell patent is not likely to be enjoyed.

#### A LEGAL QUESTION.

The News is requested to answer the following question:

"If a man, after being disfranchised by the Edmunds-Tucker act, takes advantage of the late amnesty, can he be appointed to fill a vacancy in the board of an incorporated town when he is not a registered voter?"

Yes, if he is otherwise qualified. His right to register brings him, for the purpose named, within the requirements of the law whether he is in fact registered or not. It is something like the case of a man having property on which he has paid no taxes through the failure of the assessor and collector to call on him, or because he moved in after one and before another assessment and collection; the courts hold that he is a taxpayer within the meaning of the law.

#### FORGETFUL AND HASTY.

The *Herald* must have been taking a bath in a Lethean spring, or surely in its zeal to decapitate the entire array of Federal officials in this Territory it would not have run counter to its previous statement, as it did in yesterday morning's issue. The list of those men behind whom "stalks the headman," as our cotemporary would fain have us believe, with the dates when their terms of office will run out, are not the same as they were a few months ago—immediately after the great election, when the spoils of the Democratic victory were being parceled out before the field was taken; the list was not correct then, as shown by the News at the time, and it is not

correct now, but it does not agree with itself as stated, very few items in the latter case even approaching correctness. The *Herald* notably cut off Governor Thomas', Chief Justice Zane's and Secretary Sells' official lives by nearly half a year, and in consideration of the President's promise to appoint no successors during such life, this is a matter of some little importance—at least to them.

The political feature of the case is nothing at all to this paper; neither is the personnel. So long as the office-holders are impartial, faithful and capable, it matters not whether their names are Brown or Jones, nor whether they are Democrats, Republicans, Populists or Independents. The political shading of any man or measure does not amount to much here at present where other things are paramount. Before going far and wide with a political mania—following, as we may say, the changes of the moon in our desire to secure new hands in which to place the government's commissions, let us see to it that all the fences which guard our material well-being are in place and in order. It did not occur to anybody to ask what Mr. Green's political preferences were because, we presume, nobody cared particularly. The plant which we look for at his hands will be no better because he is a Democrat and no worse because he is a Republican. It is not a political matter at all, neither, as we of Utah ought to look at it, is the other. We have been the recipients of good, bad and indifferent treatment from both Democrats and Republicans, more of either from the latter, perhaps, because they have been in power longer; and we have been able to find out to our complete satisfaction that it is not so much the political principles of men as the men themselves that we have to depend upon. With the present officials there is but little fault to be found; there has been more or less friction at times with nearly all of them; but the natural result of friction is eventual smoothness, both sides losing so much of their rough and superfluous surface as makes it otherwise. Undoubtedly there will be changes sooner or later, and within a twelvemonth perhaps the entire list will show new faces in the positions; very well. We will make the newcomers welcome and endeavor to instantly recognize every point of merit, neither exaggerating nor discounting it because of the politics of the one in whom it appears.

Meantime, let us not hurry those who are here away prematurely. We couldn't do it if we wanted to, but the News doesn't want to. Even if, as our cotemporary seems to think, their presence is an evil, it is still better to remember the Shakespearean precept and retain the ill we have than fly to others that we know not of.

#### TO WRITE THEIR OWN HISTORY.

The United Confederate Veterans is the name of a Southern society whose object is the perpetuation of the history of the South from that side of the line. A meeting of the society was recently held in New Orleans and an adjournment taken to Birmingham, Alabama,

in July, at which time the historian will be chosen. It was also decided that each "camp," or division, should appoint a special secretary whose duty it would be to take care of historical papers and documents. Lieutenant General E. Kirby Smith, president, Nicholson, of the Louisiana State University, acted as secretary, and Prof. Alonzo Hill, of Tuscaloosa, and Gen. D. S. Lee, of Mississippi, were the other members present. By special invitation Colonel William Preston Johnson, of Tulane university, participated in the deliberations. The defects of recent histories of the United States were pointed out and the following resolutions, explaining the object of the work, were then adopted:

First—To devise and suggest the best plan of securing a general history of the United States, which shall be non-partisan, but shall give special prominence to southern literature and the causes which led to the war between the states, the war itself and the period since the war.

Second—To select such of existing school histories as are truthful and just in their statements in reference to the causes and facts of the late war, and recommend the same for use in all our schools in order of preference if possible and practical.

Third—To designate such existing text books of the history as are objectionable in the sense of their being unfair and unjust in their statement in reference to the causes and facts of the late war.

It also decided that histories and other school books that deal fairly with all questions North and South be used in places of instruction, that the achievements and motives of the southern people be made known and perpetuated. From all this it seems that the ex-Confederates, while willing that both sides have a hearing, are impressed with the idea that they can and will tell the story of the South better than others have told it for them.

#### EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS.

Jerusalem is every year, and particularly at Easter, crowded with pilgrims from Catholic countries, who come to worship at the traditional sacred places. But this year the city of David will receive an unusually large crowd of devotees, owing to the fact that the so-called Eucharistic Congress is to convene at that place. Travelers from almost all parts of the world will meet on this occasion, and their meeting is likely to be a memorable one.

The Eucharistic Congress is an assemblage of Catholic clergymen and lay members, who meet for the purpose of partaking of the Lord's supper. The idea was first conceived by a couple of French ladies. The first sacramental congress was held in Lille. Others followed in Avignon, Fribourg, Liege, Toulouse, Paris and Antwerp. Leo XIII has especially expressed his delight at the idea of having one convene in the capital of the Holy Land. The delegates will start from Marseilles on April 12th. They will spend five days in Rome, and on arriving in the Holy Land they will journey on to Nazareth. The sessions of this congress will be held in Jerusalem and will be presided over by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Most Rev. Pavi.