

were not authorized to take up a question of this kind, or to give advice to Congress about legislation upon the subject of marriage, or to make any recommendation respecting amendment of the Constitution. The amendment which they recommended ought not to be adopted, and will not be. Polygamy is already prohibited by law under the Constitution. It is the duty of the legislatures of the states to enact laws prescribing the conditions of marriage and divorce; and these conditions are prescribed in every state of the Union. The constitutional amendment proposed is not needed, and the suggestion of it is foolish.

### THE SMALLEST GOVERNMENT.

The honor, or at least the distinction, of being the smallest government in the world rested with the republic of Andorra, amid the mountains separating France and Spain, for a long time; then it was shifted to a little independent province in Bavaria, mention of which was recently made in the News; and it now has centered upon Albert Island, a tiny patch of earth appearing above the sea in the neighborhood of the Marquesas group. The information of its existence and what it contains were recently brought to the United States by Henry A. Bell, an Englishman en route to the scenes of his boyhood at Nottingham, on a visit only. His statement, made to a reporter as to how he and the others came to go and remain there, is quite interesting.

"Albert Island," said Mr. Bell, "is about five miles by three in size, and although I have lived on it for over twenty years its attractions have just as strong a hold on me as they had at first. It is a typical Isle of Oceanic, and of its beauties one never tires. There is a population of just ninety-six souls, and the government is paternal in form and administered by Richard Wright." It appears that Mr. Wright was driven from his home in England by persecutions inflicted for a crime charged to him but of which he was not guilty. He came into a fortune on the death of his mother, went to Australia and there learned of the existence of his present abode, which he has occupied ever since. The people are very comfortable, reasonably prosperous and have no desire to live or die anywhere else.

### THE ECLIPSE.

There will be an annular eclipse of the sun on Monday, but the perfect annulus will not be visible on land anywhere except at Lima, Peru, and vicinity, where, toward sundown, the obscuration will approach totality. About half of the sun—the southwestern part—will be obscured in San Francisco and adjacent points, and perhaps a "bite" representing one-fourth of the disk will be observed here. At Lick observatory the eclipse is scheduled to begin at 21½ minutes past 10 a. m. and in Salt Lake it will occur correspondingly later. The phenomenon will possess little or no scientific value and observations by astronomers will be for the purpose of noting the times of the two contacts and any other matters of

interest that may happen. A perfect annulus or ring is a beautiful spectacle, a blazing gold band seeming to surround the black body of the moon, each emphasized materially by the other, but seen with the naked eye the moon is unnoticed in the fierce glare of its coronet. The eclipse will not be visible at points east of Denver and north of Florida.

### BURNHAM SAYS "BURN EM!"

The day for the close of the World's Fair at Chicago is drawing near, and the customary flood of suggestions as to the manner of winding off with eclat has already set in. It is expected that President Cleveland, who opened the Exposition, will also be on hand to close it. But the disposition of the vast buildings which have housed the exhibits is an interesting subject of discussion. A novel proposition, and one that promises the most remarkable entertainment yet given in connection with the Fair, is that suggested by Director Burnham, who of course is a Chicago man, whence have emanated nearly all the bright ideas on the subject thus far. He recommends applying the torch to the buildings after the exhibits have been removed. His idea is that the salvage will be a poor compensation for the expense of tearing down the buildings and removing the material. Hence he considers that wholesale destruction will be economical. If the buildings are set on fire, the outer walls of steel will crumble and melt away, and leave the steel frame-work uninjured and in a condition to be easily knocked to pieces. Mr. Burnham's program is to set fire to one building a night, and charge 50 cents admission to the pyrotechnic show until they are all burned down. Just what connection the sound of the gentleman's own name may have had with the putting forth of his suggestion we shall not undertake to say. But his is not the least acceptable idea by any means.

### OGDEN'S "SUN."

Ogden's new Democratic paper, *The Evening Sun*, shone for the first time yesterday. It is brisk and breezy, and evidently has the courage of its convictions. Telegraphic and local news items are presented in creditable style, the advertising columns are well filled, and the mechanical appearance and make-up of the paper are above reproach. Editorially it opens the ball with a bold discussion, from the Democratic standpoint, of the much-mooted sugar bounty question, and with predictions of Democratic success in Ogden next month. The proprietors are W. W. Browning & Co., of whom, as a firm and as progressive and enterprising citizens, the News can truthfully say they are esteemed and respected wherever their name is known. Realizing the necessity that political principles be discussed from all sides, so that none through lack of information may err in forming his political affiliations, we cordially welcome the *Sun* to the exchange table, and bid it sail in and do its level best.

### [COMMUNICATED.] MERCHANDISING.

With that rare insight which comes of poetic inspiration, and which is unknown to men of other types, Bishop O. F. Whitney, of this city, gave utterance lately to a sententious remark of far-reaching philosophy; speaking of the prevalent craze for money-making, he said: "A man can only own so much, beyond that it owns him."

That money is potent in this probation needs no argument, and there are few who want it simply for itself, or irrespective of its command of desirable things. The miser alone is infatuated with the chink of gold; he loves its music and gloats over its accumulation as he unables it in privacy from time to time. Another one possesses wealth and dyes so ostentatiously. His pride is to be known as a money king, as a many-millionaire. He invests in such venues and stocks as pay well. He is without risk or speculation; is satisfied with low interest but sure accretion. Above all things he is safe, stable, and beyond the flurry of financial storms or even zephyrs which move the barometers of values in almost all other exposures save his.

Here and there comes a magician, who by his *hocus pocus* transfers to himself railroads and rolling stock, until the traffic of many states is subject to his control. In the stock market he has been a bull or a bear as personal interest might suggest. His manipulation of vast interests is for self. The chariot wheels of his ambition pulverize like the car of Juggernaut its hosts of victims. The heathen sufferers are, however, voluntary ones; the civilized ones writhing in desolated homes and with broken fortunes, are made so by the speculation and heartless maneuvering of the undisputed autocrat and financier. Like an octopus, there are those who reach out after the absolute necessities of human life. They aim to create corners in products which all must have; wheat, corn, pork, are each bought "long or short" so that none can buy, sell or transfer save on an advance and profit to the king. Small dealers stand aghast at the magnificence and magnitude of these transactions, which embrace at times the entire national production, and collapsing now and then in spite of all audacity by the sheer weight of the monetary strain; until millions in an hour are lost and won, as in the late meat corner in Chicago, where the greatest dealer was crushed beneath the ruins of the financial structure he had himself created.

The trading and dealing of our heaviest local men seems paltry in comparison. Lilliputians they are among the Brobdingnags of commerce where the battles of fortunes are lost or won, where the strain and tension is so great at times that men become "as one possessed." These pay the penalty of excessive mental action and excite in men premature old age, mania, melancholia, and far too often—death. And yet on our small scale how often extremes meet! There comes absorption in business circles at home which is undue and undesirable. A promi-