

EDITORIALS.

WHEN the proposition to annex Utah to Nevada was made, the Reese River *Reveille* thought that the two combined would make a State so large, and with such a diversity of private interests as to make it doubtful whether the plan would work to the satisfaction of all concerned. But since this project has been broached the Idaho *Statesman* has suggested another annexation scheme, so extensive and grand that the annexation of Utah and Nevada sinks into insignificance alongside of it. Its project is nothing less than the formation of an immense State out of Nevada, Montana, Idaho and Utah Territories. Its arguments in favor of this idea will be read with some degree of interest by the people of this Territory for various reasons. It says:

"In the earlier times of the government, when the country expanded naturally and in regular order, the system (Territorial organization) worked well enough. The new Territories were contiguous to States, were agricultural, and drew a class of permanent settlers, and soon developed the capacity to organize a State government. Without taking into consideration the changed condition and character of these far off and new mining communities, Congress has gone on applying the same system. The result has been the same in nearly all of them. They have been practically without the benefit of government, and their ability to maintain a State organization has decreased from the time of their Territorial organization. In the case of Nevada, which rushed into State organization while yet disqualified in point of wealth or population to assume the burdens thereof, the likelihood of their being able to maintain their present status without the addition of more population, and the annexation of more Territory, is being now seriously discussed in their local journals. That State is poorer and less populous than when first admitted. So of Montana and Idaho Territories, which have been under Territorial organizations for about eight years, it may be fairly said that they are less able to take up the sovereignty of a State than when their Territorial organization was given to them. The basis of their population, and its active increase while their placer mines were new, with the blind ignorance among people in the east concerning these Territories, were the occasion of these hasty organizations. During those eight years, there has been very little of the advantages supposed to accrue from a well regulated government, especially in the prevention and punishment of crime, while the taxation of the people has been as great or greater than in the older States. In the mean time, their placer mines are becoming exhausted, and the capital and enterprise are not forthcoming to develop the more permanent interests of quartz mining. Their agricultural lands, so capable of supporting thriving communities, are so far from the great marts of the world that their settlement and development can only keep pace with the creation of home markets in the mines. How many years must elapse before they will have the necessary population and the necessary permanence to venture upon the dignity and assume the burdens of a State? Will it be ten, twenty, or forty years hence? At the present rate of progression it would be never. The only thing the government could do would be to remand them to their former territorial condition, and let them work out their own salvation the best they could.

It is the interest of the community, as well as its policy, to get all people under State Governments as fast as possible. This Territorial condition, a parody on self-government, and uncongenial to the spirit of free institutions, ought to be dispensed with wherever it may be practicable to do so. To attempt to maintain it for a long time, as is the prospect before these mining Territories, is absurd. People and capital will never seek such a country for homes and investment.

Therefore, if the people and Congress are wise, they will repeal the Organic Acts of Montana, Idaho and Utah Territories; add them and a portion of Eastern Oregon to Nevada, and make one mighty Rocky Mountain, sage brush, bunch grass, horn silver and virgin gold State out of it. There is, and probably will be for the next fifty years, about enough population to make it a powerful State. And this arrangement would also afford the readiest solution of the Mormon question. It would put them under a people who know how to manage them, and who would do it."

The last two sentences we can readily overlook after such an acknowledgment of weakness and failure as the former portion of the article contains. If it is any consolation to the Idaho *Statesman* to think that if the people of this Territory were "put under" their neighbors, the latter would know how to manage them and would do it, that journal is welcome to it; but to us the idea is simply amusing. We have been waiting for some time for such an acknowledgment to be made as this

which we publish to-day from the *Statesman*. We were satisfied that before many years should elapse it would be made, and we have not been disappointed. The leading citizens of Utah have been denounced and abused on all hands, because they have encouraged their fellow-citizens to pursue agricultural and manufacturing pursuits in preference to digging mines. Who, in the light of present events, shall denounce them now? Will any man of thought and reflection do so? The *Statesman* asks: "How many years must elapse before they will have the necessary population and the necessary permanence to venture upon the dignity and assume the burdens of a State? Will it be ten, twenty or forty years hence?" Mark its answer: "At the present rate of progression it would be never." That is a frank and we suppose truthful acknowledgement so far as Idaho and Montana are concerned; but Utah must not be included in this description. Utah has always had well-regulated government; she has been lightly taxed, and has not exhausted her sources of wealth. She is richer to-day in every material resource, is more populous, more permanent, her people more experienced and progressive than at any previous time since her organization, affording in this respect a striking contrast with Nevada, which the *Statesman* says is poorer and less populous than when first admitted as a State. Why is this?

Nevada, Montana and Idaho are all rich regions; rich in minerals, rich in the varied elements which are necessary to make communities prosperous, possessing fine climates, splendid grazing facilities, timber and agricultural resources. Why do they not progress and prosper? Utah, it is admitted, is progressing; she is becoming more desirable as a place of residence every day. Every visitor when he examines her condition, and becomes acquainted with her people, is convinced that she has before her a glorious career. To what shall the difference in her condition and prospects and those of her neighbors be attributed, if not to the superior wisdom and sound statesmanship which have dictated the policy which her people have pursued? We are not disposed to indulge in exultation; but it is exceedingly gratifying to us to see the sagacity and foresight of the "Mormons" so vindicated, and that too by our contemporaries around us, some of whom have not been slow to condemn the policy which has prevailed here.

UNDER the heading "Lost Time" the following appears in the *Revolution* of the 19th ult.:

To the Editor of the *Revolution*.—The Cullom bill, which aims to stop polygamy in Utah, is again pending in Congress. When the Republican party came into power ten years ago, it stood pledged to abolish the institution. Laws, dismemberment of the Territory, troops, disabilities, all have been tried without success. At the last session the Committee on Territories made a lengthy report and brought in a bill which consists in heaping together all plans heretofore tried, and doubling their severity. Every tyrannous trick, from packed juries to martial law, is proposed in this bill, to interfere with the constitution of families.

The committee assumes that bigamy in Illinois and polygamy in Utah are the same, and should be punished alike. This is false. Bigamy includes fraud; the person who commits it pretends to be unmarried and thus cheats the other party. When it is fully understood, as in Utah, that the new wife will be one of several, and she enters the relation knowing this, whatever may be the morality of her course, government has no right to interfere.

We protest against Congress wasting its time on this useless timber. Since the bill was tabled in the Senate last summer, the exertions of the Universal Franchise Association have been crowned with success, and Utah's women have begun the use of the ballot. Their future is now in their own hands. We demand that Congress let them alone and proceed to pass the Sixteenth Amendment.

If this bill should pass in any shape, we charge Senators Pomeroy, Fowler, Wilson, and Sumner, and Representatives Julian, Banks, and Butler to look out that the infamous clause be struck out that seeks to cheat the women of Utah of their vested right by re-inserting the shameful word "male" in the qualifications for voters. Woman's enfranchisement has sealed polygamy's doom let no blunder renew its strength.

Yours truly,
J. K. H. WILCOX.

THE telegrams in to-day's paper contain one item of melancholy interest, the details of which, if confirmed, will cast a shade of gloom over the entire Union. We refer to the sad news of the foundering of the U. S. War vessel *Tennessee*. This vessel sailed from the port of New York about the 20 or 21st ult., for San Domingo, having on board the commission sent by President Grant, for the purpose of testing, by personal observation, and any other means they saw fit, the truth or falsity of the reported desire of the people of that island for annexation to the United States.

It was expected that the *Tennessee* would make the run in seven days; but as the weather has been very rough since her departure, anxiety for the safety of the expedition has been high in the East for the past few days. Yesterday the worst fears of the friends of the members of the Commission were realized, for the melancholy tidings arrived that the *Tennessee* had foundered at sea, and that all aboard had perished.

The personnel of the expedition consisted of three Commissioners, two Secretaries, two stenographers, representatives of the press, and a number of scientific gentlemen, in the interests of geology, botany, mineralogy, etc.

The names of the Commissioners are ex-Senator Wade, Professor White, and Mr. Howe; of the Secretaries, Mr. A. G. Burton and the famous negro orator Fred Douglas. General Siegel, Fred Douglas, Jr., and the following scientific corps accompanied the expedition:

Prof. Wm. P. Blake, principal mineralogist and geologist, and two assistants, one from Yale and one from Harvard; Dr. Parry, botanist, and an assistant from the Cambridge Scientific School; Prof. Newcombe, of Cornell University, as general naturalist; Prof. Ward, of the University of Rochester, as assistant geologist.

A dispatch, received since writing the above, which will be found in to-day's columns, seems to throw doubt on the truth of the report of the disaster. But further tidings will be anxiously awaited by the public.

THE Wetumpka, Ala. *Republican*, of the 27th ult., has the following about Utah:

"Utah must be a great country, and Brigham Young is its prophet. Now in saying this we do so without irony, for the statements and experience of many prove it. And, indeed, a young man of this country, and of our acquaintance, who has traveled very extensively through the West and Northwest, within the last three years, says the Mormons were the happiest people he saw while on his rambles. A cheerful obedience to the laws of a country by its subjects constitutes the happiness, yea, the peace and prosperity of any country; and though susceptible of improvements, that zeal which is for ever on the stretch for improvements as frequently overdoes the thing as it falls short, and is by no means commendable. Again we say a cheerful obedience to existing laws constitutes the happiest state of government. Utah with its local government is a singular study, and has proved a great sore to many of the over-righteous of other, 'more righteous than thou,' states of the Union. Of course we offer no plea for their peculiar institutions, but is it not a matter of surprise that they get along in such harmony? It occurs to us that it would be well enough to remove the beam before hunting after moles, and when we have quiet, and cheerful obedience to the laws at home and wise counsels to spare, then ascertain if we can improve the moral status of others."

"DOWN WITH THE TAXES," is the heading of an article in a recent number of the *Omaha Herald*. Speaking upon the subject the editor says:

"This has become a general motto with the property-holding, tax paying, and business men of Omaha. Everybody sees and knows that with a total tax of 4½ per cent, under the present assessments, this town of Omaha is being vastly injured. If permitted to continue such a tax under our fancy assessments will ruin it. Laboring men, retail merchants, as well as property-holders—the tax-paying as well as non-taxpaying citizens of Omaha—are deeply concerned in this question. We must all unite in correcting evils which are fast becoming intolerable and ruinous. This is a dollar question, and not a political question. High taxes breed distress and destruction to towns like this by repelling capital and labor, which too many people fail to remember, are twins."

In a subsequent article upon this subject, published the next day, the editor says that he argues for the reduction of taxes, not with a view to wrong any man or set of men, and certainly not any member of the City Council, or the body as a whole; but to press upon all minds the importance of reform, retrenchment and rigid economy. He says:

"Our city taxes are 2 per cent, on the valuation; county taxes are 2 and 3-10 per cent. The former were but one per cent last year, and ought not to be more this year."

We think there is good cause for the press of Omaha to take up this subject. Such taxes are calculated to repel capital from seeking further investment there and to discourage that already invested. We have heard from gentlemen who have passed through Omaha, and made themselves somewhat acquainted with the affairs of that city, that times are dull there and the prospects of business not very bright. How much have high taxes to do with bringing about such results? They must certainly have their effect in checking business.

We are not disposed to cast any reflections upon those who have managed the affairs of Omaha, or to draw invidious comparisons between that city and our own. Yet with the recollection of the statements which are frequently made in the public journals respecting the manner in which this city and Territory are controlled, we deem it but simple justice to our people to make some allusion to this subject. The statement has been circulated, by parties who have aimed to throw odium upon the people of this Territory, that our elections here have been dictated by the authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that, therefore, there was not that freedom in voting that there should be. They certainly cannot say the same for the elections of Nebraska or Omaha. There the two great political parties, with as many minor parties as may choose to enter the field, have the fullest scope to operate unchecked, and to exercise the right to vote in the most approved and liberal style. King Caucus reigns supreme there, and every voter can have division and opposition to his heart's content. It might be expected, therefore, that under this system, if it be so superior as described, every thing would be lovely, and the people would progress in the happiest imaginable style, and that when their condition would be compared with that of the people of Utah—who, if the stories were to be believed, have their officers selected for them—it would be found infinitely superior. But what are the facts? Omaha is taxed 4½ per cent, for city and county purposes. Nothing is said about the State tax; that may be included in that of the county. And Salt Lake city is taxed, including Territorial, county and city taxes, 1½ per cent. Quite a contrast, and exceedingly creditable to the men who have been selected to offices in this Territory.

If, as stated, the Church authorities have selected the men to hold offices and have told the people to vote for them, and they have been elected, all we can say in view of the above facts is that their choice has been most wise, and the results excellent, and it would not be a bad thing for the people of Omaha if they had men in their State equally judicious and influential, so that they might be delivered from the rule of politicians and have honest, economical men to fill their offices, enact their laws and handle their funds. Salt Lake city tax is one-half of one per cent, and the city is out of debt. The united Territorial and County Taxes are one per cent., one-fourth of this goes to the Territory, three-fourths to the County; and the Territory and counties are out of debt. John Randolph once said on the floor of Congress: "Mr. Speaker, I have discovered the Philosopher's stone; it is pay as you go." The men elected by the people of Utah to fill Territorial, county and city offices have acted upon this principle. The result is our Territory is lightly taxed and we are out of debt. But we have a set of greedy and mercenary adventurers here, who would quickly spoil all this if they had the power. Their fingers itch and their mouths water to get hold of the funds collected from the people; hence, the howling which is heard about the elections of Utah. The people would not trust them as far as they would a dog with their dinner; for they know that, once in office, they would steal everything they could lay their hands on, and when they had stolen all they could, they would then go it until they had exhausted all credit. It is this class who have so much fault to find with the manner in which Utah affairs are conducted. Give them a taste to suck and they would be meek and thankful.

The Chinese begin another cycle of a thousand years in their calendar early in February, and those of the race in California will devote two weeks to festivity in celebration of the passage from the old cycle to the new.