

he will not succeed in keeping the news from American newspaper enterprise. The public here, naturally interested in the affairs of the struggling islanders, will be all the more eager to know what is going on, and it is reasonably certain that for every news-gatherer that is expelled others will be found both willing and able to take the work up. General Weyler evidently has all he can do in suppressing the armed rebellion; if at the same time he undertakes a war against the press of a free country, he is likely to find that he has overestimated both his ability and his resources.

THE TWO-THIRDS RULE.

An element that adds much to the uncertainty as to the action of the Democratic national convention in Chicago next July—uncertainty which is already profound enough without any additions whatever—is the fact that the meeting will have before it the time-honored rule that a two-thirds majority of the delegates is necessary to a nomination. Of course there is no good reason—certainly no good Democratic reason—why the will of the majority should not be allowed to govern, without requiring that the majority be overwhelming; but every four years since 1832 the party's conventions have adopted the two-thirds rule as a matter of course, and if it has not come to be looked upon as the common law of the party in its nominating conventions, it has at least crept into a mighty precedent.

The rule was first adopted at the Baltimore convention in 1832, being presented by a North Carolina delegate named Saunders in the form of the following resolution:

Resolved, That each state be entitled in the nomination to be made for the Vice Presidency to a number of votes equal to the number that they will be entitled to in the electoral colleges under the new apportionment in voting for President and Vice President, and that two-thirds of the whole number of votes in the convention shall be necessary to constitute a choice.

This will be seen to embody not only the two-thirds rule, but also the unit rule as to the voice of the respective states. Both propositions seemed fair and feasible, for it was recognized that conventions at that time and prior thereto had been in fact mass conventions—in those days of difficult transportation facilities the states remote sent but one or two delegates to represent them, while those nearer, like Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland, sent large numbers. Besides, it was argued that such a rule would lend weight to a nomination and that instead of thwarting a majority it would strengthen it. There was hardly any opposition to the nominee presented, so the rule went through without opposition. Four years later the same delegate offered the same resolution and after being vigorously discussed it was again adopted, the opposition being appeased with the statement that the rule was not to be considered a precedent. The same thing occurred and the same ex-

planation was made at the convention in 1840. Then came the famous Baltimore convention of 1844, when Van Buren was defeated for the nomination, and Polk as a dark horse obtained it, by the workings of Mr. Saunders's little rule which he again presented and succeeded in having adopted. And so on right up to date.

It will readily be conceived that this rule, while it is in no sense binding upon the delegates who will meet in Chicago in the early part of July, will still come before them clothed with much prestige and many evidences of popularity. How much of a stumbling block it may appear to the various candidates and their friends, as well as to the factions that will struggle for supremacy in the wording of the financial plank in the party's platform, may also be surmised without much mental effort.

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Last Sunday the Tabernacle in this city was occupied by the Stake Sunday school conference. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the forenoon meeting, held at a time when the schools are usually in session, was attended by a large congregation of the children, much larger than that of the adults who braved the storm in the afternoon. If the weather had been fine, the Tabernacle could not have accommodated all the children in the forenoon. The attendance suggests the magnitude of the Sunday school work here, in the number that are receiving instruction each Sabbath morning; and what is said of the Salt Lake Stake in that respect may be said of every Stake of Zion.

With the next Sabbath morning, these children and the corps of devoted teachers will gather again in their various meeting houses to engage in regular exercises. And now we want to suggest to very many people here who express a desire to extend their own labors for good, that the opportunity is right before them. Many of these people never think of attending Sunday school, perhaps because they do not feel they are needed there as teachers; but if they would add their presence to the school, the instruction that comes by force of their example would be of vastly more benefit than many expressed wishes to do good now are. There is a great missionary field among the young, that these may obtain proper training, and faithful missionaries can find plenty to do. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; there might be more of the latter furnished by Saints of mature age, of both sexes, to Sunday schools.

In this connection there may be another suggestion to those engaged in these schools. It is that as Church members a meeting which they are specially required to attend is the regular Sacrament meeting in the ward. Every Sabbath school teacher should teach by example, as well as by precept, the necessity of observing that rule; they should be as religiously careful to attend Sacrament meetings as they are the Sunday schools, which some of

them do not miss from one year's end to the other; the children under their care should be taught to do the same, and the example of their leader in observing the counsel of the Lord will be all the more potent. The Sunday schools ought to have a larger attendance of heads of families, both fathers and mothers; and Sunday school workers and children should not fail to enjoy the special blessings of the Church Sacrament meetings.

RESPONSE TO "A SUBSCRIBER."

"A subscriber" of the News, writing from Springdale, Utah, sends the following:

Please answer in your columns:

1st. Where can the statement of William M. Daniels be found, outside of Church works, with regard to the young ruffian who attempted to sever the Prophet's head when he fell from the window of the jail?

There is an article in the December 9th, 1895, number of the Exeter Times, clipped from the Chicago Times, by B. W. Richmond, who claims to have been an eye-witness to the tragedy. Mr. Richmond went to the Nauvoo house, where Joseph Smith was pointed out to him quietly smoking a cigar. This is brought as an argument against the Word of Wisdom here by one individual, and if we can get some evidence to refute such from you it will be a benefit to our young. The article in the main is very fair, but, like Satan, it seems he has told ninety-nine truths in order to make the people believe one lie. The letter states that the Prophet was a banker, kept a hotel and had nearly 1,000 acres of land under cultivation at the time of his death. It also says that there was no violence offered his person after the body fell from the window.

In what year and what number of the DESERT NEWS WEEKLY will David Whitmer's last testimony be found? Also, can it be found in any work other than Church publications?

Please answer the above and oblige.

The statement made by William Daniels, which appears in a little work called *The Martyrs*, was first published in pamphlet form by Mr. Daniels himself, in Illinois, many years ago. Its chief statements were corroborated in a letter to an Illinois paper by Wm. Web, also referred to in *The Martyrs*. The probability is that those who took any interest in the Daniels narrative and who were opposed to the Church would prefer to have it suppressed rather than otherwise, hence there would be nothing unusual in its not being found outside of Church publications, except in the pamphlet we have referred to. We would have regarded it as remarkable for any antagonistic paper to give it space, since it contains items that the Illinois anti-Mormons specially desired should not be disseminated among the public.

As to the B. W. Richmond article referred to, Dr. Richmond has written much about the martyrdom and the scenes which followed it. He was an eye-witness to many of the latter, but he was not an eye-witness to the tragedy. In the Times article he probably drew somewhat on his imagination, and also relied some on the information obtained from others; but in the main he tells the sad story