

for some time, he is asked for his papers. If he has no passport he is told to procure one. The Elder then naturally goes to the American Consul, and this gentleman refuses to issue one to a Mormon; and if the Elder has been thoughtful enough to procure a passport in Washington or in London, the authorities here will require him to procure the *visé* of the consul, which the consul stubbornly refuses to give. In either case the Elder is unable to comply with the demand, passport or no passport, and an expulsion from the Canton is the consequence. Brother Stucki has just today been notified that if he cannot procure the required *visé* of the consul, which the consul refuses to give, and if he remains in Bern till the 29th of December, he will be arrested and expelled from the Canton. This is a serious case; for if the authorities succeed in this scheme in the leading Canton of the confederation, it is more than probable that the other Cantons will follow the example, and a general expulsion of all the Elders from America will speedily take place. Brother Stucki, however, is a man who will do what can be done to defeat this vile scheme.

One reflection I cannot withhold. It seems as if certain citizens of the arch-glorious republic of the U.S. had no rights and no protection whatever. At home hunted by deputies as sheep by dogs, and abroad spurned by any puny little consul who will take a notion to do so. Does America want to retain her esteem in foreign countries? If so, she must certainly show that her citizens can not be outraged without cause by the officers of a small nation like this. And if the United States will not or cannot protect her peaceful citizens while travelling abroad in their lawful avocations, then let a cloud hide the galaxy of stars in her once glorious flag, and let every citizen mourn at the degradation and fall of the "Giant of the West."

J. M. S.

Bern, December 8th, 1888.

CAPITAL NEWS.

The capitol has been almost deserted during the week now closing, except by tourists and sight-seers. Most of the legislators are out of town, and it is doubtful whether there will be a very full house at either wing of the building on the hill when Congress re-opens on Wednesday, the second day of the

New Year. A few members have met in the committee rooms in an unofficial way, but nothing of importance has been done.

The omnibus bill is to come up on the 15th of January, and the Committee on Territories is to "hold the fort" from day to day to dispose of the territorial question. It is not believed, however, that the Republicans, who expect to control the Fifty-first Congress, and will in all probability hold an extra session, will permit any legislation which will give the Democrats the color of credit in the admission of new States. The omnibus bill provides for the admission of Dakota, Washington, Montana and New Mexico. It is now proposed by the Committee on Territories to provide for the division of Dakota if the citizens thereof so elect. Also to add an amendment opening the way to all the territories, as soon as they have sufficient population ascertained by a census taken under an act of their Legislature or of Congress, to form a State Constitution and be admitted by act of Congress into the Union.

It is difficult to see why the opponents to statehood in Utah should fan themselves into such a furor over the decision of the Democratic caucus, which, by excluding Utah from a general measure, any sane and well-informed person would suppose, really did just what the opposition was likely to desire. And as there is no proposition on the part of the Democrats to admit any State immediately, but in every case to make admission, even after the ratification of a State Constitution by its people, contingent on the subsequent action of Congress, it seems as though some folks have taken fright at less than a shadow, and rent their garments without the slightest actual provocation.

The proposition to prepare the way for the admission of all the Territories is right in principle although it is tardy of application.

First, the population of a Territory desiring statehood must be sufficient under the Congressional apportionment to elect one representative to Congress. This must be established by a census taken under a law passed for that purpose. Then the Legislative Assembly must pass an act authorizing a constitutional convention. Then the Territory must be apportioned into twenty-five districts, each to send three delegates to the convention. But no voter is to vote for more than two delegates. This is to secure mi-

nority representation. When the constitution is ratified by a majority vote, it is to be submitted to Congress, and that body may admit the State into the Union. Even if Utah were not placed under the special restrictions which are sure to be imposed upon her, there is nothing in these provisions that ought to make Idaho legislators or Utah "Liberals" go into conniptions, sound the alarm bells of religious hate, or make the political pot boil with the flames of Powellian wild-fire. It looks very much as if some patriotic place-hunter wanted a nice, soft, loafing trip to Washington, nominally to "save the Gentiles" from any imaginary peril, but really to have "a good time" at the expense of the dupes induced to sign a ridiculous petition and back their folly with cash.

The president and his charming wife spent their Christmas quietly together at the White House, undisturbed by the public or even by visiting friends. They went to church, helped the poor, made no display, and apparently were unmoved by the stupid scandals which had been spread abroad by convivial yarn spinners and male and female gossips. Mrs. Cleveland is as popular as ever.

Senator Stanford, of California, who has been on a tour to Europe, returned here from the west before the holidays, and delighted fourteen boys, pages in the Senate, with the Christmas gift to each of a crisp new \$5 bill and the compliments of the season. He is a generous, rich man, and full of kindly sympathy as well as strong common sense.

Bishop Hurst delivered a striking lecture a short time ago in the Metropolitan M.E. Church, on "The revenges of History."

"There is no future judgment for nations," he said, "except as relates to the present life, though as individuals men are rewarded and punished. During the passage of centuries, nations are rewarded and punished. Spain has not yet ceased to suffer for her crimes of oppression against the Netherlands. The United States had to suffer four years of civil war because of her crime of slave-holding. We must be careful now to determine whether we are sinning in such manner as to bring down Divine justice upon us."

This is sound philosophy and is sustained by the records of the past. Acts of national injustice to any people will eventually bring Divine retribution. The law of compensa-