

## EDITORIALS.

## A CHANCE FOR BACHELORS.

THE Lowell ladies, as our readers are well aware, are getting averse to everlasting and unmitigated spinsterhood, and, as the Legislature of the old Bay State has done nothing for them, they must be studying the advice of the lamented Greeley, and beginning, if not to go west, at least, by way of preliminary, to write west, judging by the following, published in the *Virginia, Nev., Enterprise* of Oct. 9, and received at the post office in that city, addressed, "To the Best-looking Unmarried man over thirty, in Virginia City, Nev.":—

LOWELL, September 28th, 1873.

Dear Sir—You will, no doubt, be surprised to receive a letter from me, a stranger; but when I tell you my motive for writing I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken. I am a lady of good moral character, and, like many others of the same class, am employed in one of the many factories here, thereby earning my own living. I have very few correspondents, and as I enjoy receiving and answering letters, I thought I would like very much to add one or two more to the list, provided I could find some agreeable ones. I presume I should have advertized, or answered an advertisement, but those papers that formerly published them will do so no more, so I have resorted to this novel manner of getting one, hoping that I may succeed. I will now tell you what kind of a correspondent I would like. Would like him to be between thirty and forty; a man of good moral character, and a pleasant and agreeable correspondent. I do not care how much fun and nonsense he writes, providing it is nothing rough or immoral; anything of that kind would not be appreciated. Now you may think that I am some forlorn old maid in search of a husband, for you know it has been reported by some papers that the Lowell girls want to get married so badly that they have sent in a petition to the legislature to have a law passed allowing every man to have two or more wives, as he was able to support them. What a libel! But that is not my motive. I want an agreeable and pleasant correspondent for a short or long time—just as we are suited with each other—to help make the time pass more pleasantly; and I am sure there are gentlemen in that part of the country that would like a pleasant lady correspondent to help while away his spare time if he knew where to find one. And now, my dear sir, if you do not care to enter into such a correspondence, have you no gentleman friend that would like to? Should you decide to favor me with an answer, you will please address and oblige yours truly,

JENNIE M. CASTLETON,

Lowell, Mass.

P. S.—Should this fall into the hands of some forlorn old bach, or some lonesome widower, or some poor miner with no correspondents, let him take new courage, for here is a chance for him.

It is easy to imagine the perplexity of the honorable postmaster, Addison, on reading this delicate epistle. He extricated himself therefrom by putting the letter into Fred Boegle's box. Fred did not decline the compliment, except on one ground—being over young to marry yet, or to think of anything shaping that way with a maiden or other lady who was looking for a man between thirty and forty, and wishing other bachelor friends a chance he handed the letter to the newspaper. The *Enterprise* thinks Jennie will have plenty of correspondence the coming winter.

If Jennie can't find a man to her liking in Nevada, she can try in Utah, where she can hardly fail of being suited. Not that this Territory boasts so many professed bachelors (though perhaps blessed with quite as many real ones) as other Western Territories and States. Everybody knows that our citizens have the happy faculty of getting pretty well married, yet married men in Utah are as eligible as bachelors elsewhere, besides having the advantage of a more extensive experience than they have, or ought to have.

## ABOUT TAKING UP LAND.

A CORRESPONDENT from the country, desirous of securing a homestead on the government domain, sends us a letter containing the following inquiries:

1. How long does the government give a man to build a house after he has filed upon a quarter section of land?
2. When a man has built a house upon a quarter section, how long does the Government require that man to live in that house before he proves up his claim?
3. Is it safe for a man, even after he has built his house, proven up his claim and paid his money, to leave that house until he gets his patent from the government?

4. Have the same rules to be observed in entering land under what is called a "special survey," as a general survey, such as building a house, living in it, &c.?

To the preceding questions our correspondent desired a private and speedy answer, but thinking that the information solicited would be useful to many of our friends and readers in the country, we answer the queries through the columns of the *News*, that as many as possible may be benefitted thereby.

To the first question—"How long does the government give a man to build a house after he has filed upon a quarter section?" the answer is—no specified time. The law allows a reasonable time, and it would depend upon the facilities for procuring lumber and building material in the region in which the location was made.

To the second question—"When a man has built a house upon a quarter section, how long does the government require him to live in that house before he proves up his claim?" the answer is, he must be an actual settler, that is, he must be a resident of that house, for six months.

Question No. 3—"Is it safe for a man, even after he has built his house, proven up his claim and paid his money, to leave that house until he gets his patent from the government?" is one that has never been settled by the Land Office. The opinion among land office officials is that it would be perfectly safe for the locator to do so if he wished to, because in their opinion the transfer which he receives from the government officer at the time he pays for his land secures him the possession against all others. An experienced and eminent legal friend gives it as his unqualified opinion that when a man has taken all the necessary steps to secure government land, and has paid for it, his leaving it before obtaining his patent will not in the least affect his right of possession; still, he would advise staying on the land, whenever practicable, until the patent is obtained, as the doing so might, under certain circumstances, obviate the necessity for a lawsuit, either with the government or a private party.

4th. As for the rules to be observed in entering land under a special survey, they are the same as under a general survey, so far as building and occupying a house, &c. The expense of the special survey, will have to be paid by the locator, but the amount so paid will go to his benefit when paying the Government for his claim.

While on this subject we may as well drop a few general hints on the subject of taking up a homestead on the Government domain, either under the Pre-emption or Homestead Act, as we believe many make mistakes detrimental to their own interests through a lack of understanding in regard to said acts.

The Pre-emption Act was passed September 4th, 1841. Settlement under this act means any act of improvement; and the first step necessary to secure a homestead under the pre-emption act, is to begin improvements of some kind, such as digging a well, putting in a foundation, or anything that would come under the head of improvements. The settler can then go in good faith and build his house, according as his circumstances will permit. He must reside on the land at least six months before he pays the one dollar and a quarter per acre, and he has twenty-one months in which to complete his payments. If the land is surveyed at the time of settlement ninety days are given to the settler in which to file upon it, if unsurveyed six months are given after the Surveyor General returns the plats of the survey to the Land Office.

The Homestead Act was passed May 20, 1862. No right attaches under this Act until after the claimant makes his entry at the Land Office, and the act of filing does not hold a piece of land a minute. Entry, under this Act, consists of an application and the applicant's own affidavit. In regard to settlement and cultivation the settler must proceed as under the Pre-emption Act. If after six months' residence he desires to enter the land at the Government price of a dollar and a quarter, or two dollars and a half, per acre, he must make an application to the Land Office under the 8th section of the Act, and prove, at that time, by two disinterested witnesses, his settlement and cultivation of the

land. If he does not want to pay the one dollar and a quarter per acre, but desires to avail himself of the benefits of the Homestead Act, he continues to reside on the land and improve it five years from the date of the homestead entry, not from the date of settlement; then, on proving by two disinterested witnesses a full compliance with the Homestead Act and paying a fee of six dollars, he is entitled to his final certificate, after which the patent is received from the General Land Office in the order in which the returns are made from the local Land Office.

## SOMETHING STRANGE.

FOR many years revolution has been the chronic condition of Mexico, and for bloody revolutions, large or small, if she has not surpassed old Spain, she has proved herself a worthy relative of that revolution-distracted country. But now, strange to say, Mexico has effected a peaceful revolution, and an important one too. It was recently stated that the Jesuits had been ordered to leave the country, and now the President of Mexico has issued a decree concerning the recent amendments to the constitution, commanding all functionaries and Government employees to affirm, without reservation, the reform, and to guard and cause to be guarded the additions to the Constitution, under penalty of a forfeiture of their positions.

These amendments and additions provide that Church and State shall be separate; that no laws shall be made establishing or prohibiting any religion, thus inaugurating religious equality before the law; that marriage is to be a civil contract, no religion in it before the law; that religious institutions cannot possess property, thus making them, as such, inferior to secular institutions before the law, and placing the former under ban in material matters, or, in other words, regarding them at best as but civil institutions; that the religious oath is abolished, and a simple affirmation or promise to speak the truth, complying with the obligations contracted, with penalties in case of violation, or for false testimony, is substituted; that nobody shall be obliged to serve another without just compensation, which abolishes peonage and all forms of civil slavery; that the laws do not recognize monastic orders, nor permit their establishment by any denomination or under any pretence; that no contract shall be allowed to be made among persons consenting to their own proscription or banishment; that no contract shall be permitted which aims at a sacrifice of the liberty of man, in the matters of work, education, and religious vows.

These are far reaching changes, and are very largely aimed at the domination of the Roman Catholic Church. As a consequence the priests of that church are highly indignant over them, and some of the priesthood are opposing them by all means in their power, chief of which is excommunication of all members who defend these changes in the constitution of the country. It remains to be seen whether the priests have or have not sufficient influence to make the changes affecting them practically void.

## AFTER THAT EASTERN CURRENT.

MONSIEUR DURET, a distinguished French aeronaut, who is said to have superintended the balloon express from Paris during the Franco-German war, has arrived in San Francisco from New York, to endeavor to solve the eastern current problem by a balloon voyage from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast. He was to make an extended experimental trip across the State from the City Gardens to-morrow, Saturday, Mr. Stevens, proprietor of that place, having offered him favorable terms and co-operation, and M. Duret considering that the most favorable locality for beginning the experiment. In this preliminary trip, he designs as ending to an altitude of four miles. If he finds the conditions favorable, an immense balloon, constructed in

Philadelphia, and capable of holding 400,000 feet of gas, will be sent out to San Francisco for the transcontinental trip.

Now would not Salt Lake City be the best place to experiment in regard to this aerial current? There is a gas manufactory here. In the summer time little gas is wanted by the citizens, and it would be madness to seriously try such an experiment as a transcontinental balloon trip at any other time than in summer. Late summer would be the best for crossing the mountain region. Besides, if the aeronaut ascended from this city, it would not matter a great deal whether the air current took him and his balloon east or west, north or south, he would still, local lakes excepted, for many hundred miles in either direction, have terra firma beneath him.

## RETURN OF THE TIDE.

"Go WEST, young man," was Greeley's standing word of advice for those who wished to know how to better their condition, so it is commonly said of the lamented philosopher of the *Tribune*. And there was philosophy in the advice, for westward the star of empire had been long wending, and in the west were to be found room, new and unconventional society, virgin soil, and vast and undeveloped resources generally.

Going west has long been a habit and a passion with Americans, until it has almost become a second nature to them. In some instances, the thing has been undoubtedly overdone. Many persons have been carried westward with the tide of empire, who were better fitted for the conditions existing in more eastern localities, and consequently they have not done better nor so well, nor been so comfortable or satisfied as they would have been if they had remained for life in the east, instead of going west. Many eastern localities have numerous conveniences of various kinds, of which many western localities cannot boast. Consequently, we hear of persons returning from California, from Montana, from Idaho, from Nevada, from Utah even, and also from the rich prairie sections of the Western States east of the Rocky Mountains, the Plains, and the Missouri. It is not all joy on the fertile alluvium of the Mississippi and Missouri and their tributaries east of the mountains, nor on the intervening rich rolling prairie lands, and some of the papers called "Western" begin to argue in favor of going East instead of West for various reasons, such as the further we go from the seaboard the higher are the prices for produce, and the further we go into the interior the lower they are, particularly as regards butter, eggs, poultry, and garden vegetables, the things in which lie most of the cultivators' profits, cost of production considered. Per contra, the further we go from the seaboard, the higher is the price of nearly everything the farmer has to buy. Consequently, if there are many deserted farms in the New England and other far eastern States, there are also many "Western" farmers who wish to leave their possessions, whose eyes are directed eastward, and who say the "Western" papers, soon will be moving in that direction.

This shows that the tide of empire has received a check, and that it may soon be expected to ebb, and then to set in back eastward. When the tide shall be fairly flowing toward the rising sun, our turn will come. The Latter-day Saints came west because they were not permitted to live peaceably or scarcely at all in the East, the other citizens were so much holier than our people that the presence of the latter could not be endured, and by and by they will be prepared to go back and then the question may be—can they endure the people whom they may find in the more eastern portions of the continent? If the latter are honorable people, the answer may be written in the affirmative. If not, in the negative, and then in all fairness it will be the turn of those people to pull up stakes and go with the tide of empire still further east, and give peace to our people.

## FROM FORT BRIDGER TO THE YELLOWSTONE.

A CORRESPONDENT, "C," sends to the *Helena Gazette* a brief account of a trip from Fort Bridger to the Yellowstone. The party left Bridger on the 12th of June last, and consisted of the following—W. A. Jones, Captain Engineers U. S. A., command of expedition; Dr. C. C. Parry, Botanist and Meteorologist; J. D. Putnam, Assistant; Professor Comstock, Geologist; Paul L. Hardy, Chief Topographer; Louis Von Frobin, Engineer; Cecil Gabbitt, do; Fred Bond, do; Lieut. Blunt, 13th infantry, Astronomer; George E. Jewett, Odometer; G. H. Hitt, Clerk; C. Cray and Fred Willard, general assistants to engineers; and a brace of sable gents who officiated as cooks. The escort consisted of Company I, 2d Cavalry, Captain H. E. Noyes commanding, with Lieuts. Hall and Kingsberry. Dr. Higeman was attached to the expedition as Surgeon, and Lieut. R. H. Young, 4th Infantry, as Quartermaster; Charles Curtis was Master of Transportation, with ten packers. Added to this entire number were fifteen Shoshone or Snake Indians, used as guides and scouts.

The expedition advanced to the Sweetwater; thence ten miles to South Pass City, once a town of 5,000 inhabitants, now about 30; thence four miles to Atlantic City, also decayed, though the houses are good and the people are waiting for something to turn up; thence three miles to Camp Stambaugh, a two-company post, Col. Brackett, Second Cavalry, commanding; thence two miles to Miners' Delight, also gone down hill; thence forty-five miles to Camp Brown, on Little Wind River, the agency for the Snake Indians, in one of the most beautiful of valleys; two miles from this fort is a large medicinal hot spring, and three miles from the fort is a spring of pure asphalt. The party left Camp Brown with forty pack mules, July 10, for Big Wind River, which they forded; then marched north-westerly; passed successfully Owl Creek Mountain and its three streams; crossed Gray Bull river and its mountains; then marched to the South Fork of the Stinkingwater; thence up the North Fork of the Stinkingwater; thence over the divide between Stinkingwater and Mud Lake; thence around Mud Lake to Pelican Creek; thence to the place where the Lake forms the Lower Yellowstone; thence to the East Fork of the Yellowstone; crossed the river on Baronnet's bridge; thence to the Mammoth Springs on Gardener's river; thence to Fort Ellis for supplies; thence south to the Yellowstone Lake; thence to the Fire Hole Basin, or Wonderland; thence over the Snake river divide; thence over the Yellowstone and Wind river divide; thence down the Wind river to Camp Brown.

The correspondent says of all this reach of country, that, from Wind River in the start to Wind River on the return, the party did not get a prospect of the smallest kind, of either gold or silver quartz, scarcely even getting a color in streams or on bars along the entire route. The country is composed almost entirely of metamorphic rock, the sand and gravel of streams and bars being fine and loose. He says, "There is nothing in this country that will pay any of our Montana miners to quit their claims for." He further says that in his travels he has noticed all the principal points along the line of the railroad and inland, and although Helena may be dull and Montana generally duller, yet in dullness they will not compare with the other towns he has visited. Certainly not with the Sweetwater towns.

Peru now possesses a railway across the Andes, which is represented to be the greatest modern triumph of engineering skill. Passing from the sea coast directly over the mountains into the interior, it ascends by a long series of remarkably easy grades and of remarkable curves to the highest point ever reached by a locomotive, and through some of the finest scenery of the South American mountain regions.