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## ANNEXATION OF UTAH TO NEVADA.

The annexation of Utah to Nevada, is a subject at present engaging the attention of quite a number of our cotemporaries, and affording them matter for numerous articles. As the inhabitants of Utah are somewhat interested in the subject, we think we have the right to express our opinion concerning it, though nobody seems to care, of course, how Utah would like the change. It is enough that a State wishes to absorb a Territory, and that Territory Utah, and such appears to be all that is necessary. To be sure, this Territory is accredited with a population at least four times as numerous as that of the State which wishes to annex us; but what of that! What business have the people of a Territory to have any thoughts or wishes on such a matter, when they are sought to be annexed by a State, even though the State should be so far in the minority, in population, and, in wealth too, as the facts show!

That which is now the State of Nevada was some few years ago a part of the Territory of Utah. Its inhabitants were not satisfied with the peace, quietness and absence of contentious strife of our Territorial government. They petitioned Congress for a separation, and a similar organization, which Congress in the plenitude of its good nature granted. After a time, they sought admission into the Union as a Sovereign State, of course alleging their capability of being fully able to take care of themselves. Nevada was a mining region, rich in the precious metals, attracting crowds of adventurous spirits, and would soon, through the richness of her great mineral resources, become one of the most powerful States in the Union. So reasoned those who sought a State Government for her. So, it seemed, Congress believed, for the request was granted, though the population was and is much below that usually required of Territories seeking admission as States. What is the result? The answer is a fair exposition of the test value of developing the precious metals as a basis of permanent prosperity for a community. Utah, that has been sneered at for her agriculture, and flouted because her people would not run crazy after metals which may or may not exist within our borders; Utah, that was promised unheard of prosperity by "distinguished visitors," when her "undoubted great mineral wealth" would be developed,—meaning thereby, gold and silver, not iron and coal; Utah has pursued agriculture to successful prosperity, and is free from debt; while rich, gold and silver bearing Nevada is all but bankrupt, and wants the wealth of Utah to pay her debts and give her the requisite elements of power to remain a State. From many things published on the question, we clip the following portion of a letter, bearing date Virginia, Feb. 11th, 1867, and published in the Carson Appeal of the 13th, with an editorial preface:—

"I think it exceedingly probable that Congress, in order to get rid of a national nuisance, may be induced to offer us Utah Territory, and to accompany the offer with certain terms and conditions imposed for our protection. These terms no one will question the power of Congress to impose; and certainly its friendship for us, together with the sagacity of our Representatives, will ensure such as our interests and safety will suggest. Besides, and it seems to me that this is absolutely conclusive of the whole question—if when Congress offers us this Territory we conclude that we had rather not have it, we are at full liberty to say so, and that ends the matter. Suppose Mormonism did not exist in Utah, would any sane inhabitant of this starveling State oppose annexation? Would not our power to tax the real estate of Salt Lake City, the coal beds, manufactories, cotton and grain fields of Utah, and eight hundred miles of Pacific railway, enable us to see very plainly that which now we behold darkly indeed—an honorable and prosperous perpetuation of our State government."

There now, Congress is put upon its good behavior in the matter. If it does not make the offer of Utah to the State towards which it has so much "friendship" with satisfactory conditions, said State will politely refuse the gift, and tell Congress to handle its own delicate matters itself. This extract is deliciously cool, to say the least of it, especially when coming from an advocate of annexation and a citizen of the "starveling State"—we italicized the words in the extract to give piquancy to them. And only think! if "Mormonism" was not in Utah "no sane inhabitant" of that "starveling State" would oppose annexation! Where or what would Nevada or Utah have been to-day, if "Mormonism" had never come to these valleys? But it is here; and if it could be got away Nevada would not be so nice with Congress about accepting the gift of Utah; for she would undoubtedly like to have the power and privilege to "tax the real estate of Salt Lake City, the coal beds," &c., if any such things were then here to be taxed.

Now, we have no particular objection to this annexation scheme, on certain conditions. The present Nevada has a population not quite twice as large as Great Salt Lake City. She wishes to annex this City and some one hundred and fifty other cities and settlements with a population four times as large as her own. In behalf of these cities and settlements, we wish Nevada to understand that we have no quixotic desire to step in and aid impoverished communities, by assuming their liabilities. We tax our own "real estate," pay our debts and keep a comfortable little balance in the Treasury; and we design that that balance shall be applied to the benefit of those who paid it. Further, Nevada must not run away with the idea that we will tolerate fashionable "civilization" here, whether as a State or a Territory. All the rest of the world that wishes to have them, can enjoy all the rowdiness, shooting, seduction, prostitution, gambling, drinking and vice in general that may be desired; but we object to them in detail and unreservedly, and will none of them. We will teach Nevada economy, the principles of success, if they so wish, virtue, sobriety and good order; we will show them how to govern without contention; how to act prudently and legislate wisely for the good of all; and shall expect them to begin the work of fraternization by purifying the present State, to some extent at least, of the social leprosy which afflicts it in common with other parts of a licentious Christendom.

## NEVADA, ITS GOVERNMENT AND FINANCES.

As Nevada has thrust herself so prominently upon the notice of Utah, a few facts concerning that State, obtained from State documents will, we have no doubt, be found interesting.

What the present population of Nevada is we cannot say. Article VI., sec. 13, of the Constitution of the State, provides that the census shall be taken, "if deemed necessary," in 1865, 1867, 1875,

and every succeeding ten years. We are not in possession of documents showing what the population was in '65; but in the United States census of 1860 it is given as 6,857. It is now variously estimated from 25,000 to 50,000; but the former number is much more likely the correct one. However in our calculations we will take 30,000 for the figure.

Nevada merged from a Territorial organization into a Sovereign State in 1864. At that time she had a floating debt of somewhere near \$120,000 in coin, swimming around the country in the form of "Territorial warrants," "bonds and coupons" &c.; with other "Territorial bonds," bearing interest, and falling due on Feb. 1st of '66, '67, '68 and '69, to the amount of nearly \$120,000 more. This was quite a nice little sum to begin independent sovereignty with. So among the first things the State did was to generously pay off about one half of the Territorial indebtedness,—by going in debt as a State, and issuing State bonds for \$118,042, bearing ten per cent. interest, to pay part of the debt of the Territory. To follow the financial meanderings of the State for the next year and a little over would be tedious, and would occupy too much space; so we will go to the beginning of the fiscal year of '66, and on the 1st of January of 1866, the State was involved to the respectable amount of over \$450,000, with a balance in the Treasury to meet it of about \$28,000, leaving a debt of more than \$422,000 against the State at that time, nearly all expressly contracted to be paid in United States coin, and bearing interest. Now, considering that the population of the State could not, at the time, be over, if as much as, 20,000 souls, \$20 per head for every inhabitant, large and small, old and young, was tolerably good as a State indebtedness.

By Art. IX, Sec. 3, of their Constitution, they are precluded from contracting public debts to exceed an aggregate of \$300,000, except for extraordinary expenses named, none of which have yet arisen. By Sec. 7, Art. XVII, they are permitted to add to this all debts and liabilities of the Territory of Nevada. By an Act of the State Legislature, approved Feb. 26, 1866, a loan of \$500,000 was authorized, to be paid in ten years, under interest not to exceed ten per cent. per annum, said principal and interest to be paid in coin. This loan was avowedly to pay the previous Territorial and State debts, the former of which had been in the neighbourhood of \$240,000 in 1864; and the two combined about \$200,000 more at the beginning of 1866; while at the close of February of the same year, provision is made to pay a debt of half a million, by authorizing a loan to that amount for the purpose, showing that the State had either run in debt nearly \$80,000 in the two months, or her Legislators designed that she should do so at an early day. This makes the State debt come up rapidly to the maximum which the Constitution permits.

But this is not the only thing in which a leap has suddenly been made to prescribed limits. This wonderful State, carved out of a Territory, that starts into sovereign existence involved in debt which is generously expanded at delightfully contiguous periods; this State with a population of some 30,000 inhabitants now, has all the paraphernalia of State Government on the most approved and expensive principle; and here is the great secret of the financial difficulty. It is not shown that very extensive improvements have been made from funds collected by taxation; but deliciously attractive salaries are in order, regularly voted, and invariably payable out of the first monies in the Treasury, whether the cash comes by

the sale of bonds which increase already existing burdens, or by taxation, or the sale of "stamps," or from the four dollars per head which every voter must pay before he can exercise the franchise, or from whatever source it is derived. First comes the Governor, though some of the Judges are above his figure, with a salary of six thousand a year, in currency now, but in coin up to the close of last year. The Lieut. Governor has three thousand for compensation as Warden. Three Judges of the Supreme Court have seven thousand each. Eight District Judges, for as many judicial Districts, have an aggregate allowed of thirty-six thousand, three hundred dollars, ranging from seven thousand down to three thousand each. With a Legislature of eighteen Senators and thirty-six Assemblymen, making a total of fifty-four, to which add the usual officers of the Assembly, the sum of eighty thousand dollars is reported for the account of Legislative Department for one year. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Departments, with the State printing and support of Prison, during the year before last, cost Nevada just \$202,930.46 in coin, according to the Treasurer's report. Add to this \$54,347.20, paid in interest on debt for which the credit and faith of the State stand pledged, and we have a quarter of a million paid by some 30,000 people in one year, except the amount which travelers contribute, making about eight dollars per head for the entire population! When the poor "starveling State," of Nevada sinks under the burden which she has drawn upon herself, a brief but pointed epitaph might be written over her;—"Died of misgovernment and plethoric salaries."

This is the State that asks for Utah to be annexed to her, that bankruptcy may be averted. We gave her the first start in existence which she got. We built the road from Carson to California at a cost of \$100,000, and with the sacrifice of three lives, and did not run a cent in debt. We built her the first mills she ever had. These labors she now enjoys the benefit of. Yet after having done these things for Nevada, while she was a portion of Utah, her citizens can now roundly abuse the "Mormons," while they desire the annexation of Utah to save them from the financial ruin, as a State, which extravagance, reckless financiering, or total absence of financiering, and mismanagement have brought upon them.

There are a great many other things connected with this subject that we would like to touch upon, but have not space at present. But if Nevada wishes to prosper—and if the "Mormons" have any share in her government they will try and bring it about—let her cut down these salaries, and all unnecessary expenditure. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Departments should not cost the State more than \$30,000 per year, at the outside, instead of the \$160,000 or more which they now cost. And the large revenues devoured by cormorant officials, through every grade, in State, County and Municipal offices, should be proportionately reduced. There is great need for an economical reformation, and the sooner it is begun, the sooner will the State of Nevada begin to feel the freedom resulting from a paucity of financial liabilities.

It must not be thought that we are interfering with that which does not concern us; for when the poverty-stricken, bankrupt, official-ridden State, talks of having us annexed with our financial prosperity, wise economy and rapidly increasing improvements, she invites us to criticize her present and past, and look with keen eyes towards her prospective future.