

EDITORIALS.

REVIVAL OF "KNOW-NOTHINGISM."

ABOUT a year ago the American party was organized and put forth its platform in California. Its operations have, so far, been confined to that State, though it aspires to become a national party. Its platform was little more than a revival of the "Know-Nothingism" of thirty odd years ago, and soon after its publication, the News pointed out the absurd character of the attempt to revive doctrines that were killed by ridicule more than a quarter of a century since.

We are in receipt of the first number of the *American*, a weekly publication issued from San Francisco, which evidently wishes to be recognized as the organ of this new party. If pronounced "Know-Nothing" views constitute the necessary qualifications in a journal to be the mouthpiece of the Rip Van Winkle organization, then the *American* is entitled to recognition as such. This new paper would close the gates of immigration, and class with Chinamen the inhabitants of all the countries of Europe. It would prohibit them from seeking homes beneath the Stars and Stripes. No matter how useful or valuable a citizen a foreigner might become, the right of naturalization should be denied him. To this rule of exclusion no exception is permitted. The "Mormons" come in for especial condemnation, and the following excerpt from the *Pittsburg Commercial Gazette* is approvingly quoted by the *American*:

"Mormon recruits sailing from foreign lands should be met on the shores of this continent by an impassable barrier. This polygamous relic of barbarism will be difficult to extirpate under the most favorable conditions, and well nigh impossible if it be permitted to add to its strength by importation. The threat of Bishop Brown to overrun Idaho should not be forgotten. We want no Chinese wall around this nation, but the barbarians, beggars, criminals, outcasts of Europe and Asia should be kept out."

This new would-be party organ wants to have laws enacted prohibiting the election or appointment to office in this country of any person not of American ancestry; and to be consistent, might be expected to advocate other bigoted and oppressive alien laws. But there is one comfort which offsets any anxiety that might otherwise be felt at such an attempt to render prevalent principles so antagonistic to the genius of American institutions: The American nation long ago decided that it would not tolerate such doctrines, and it buried their advocates under an avalanche of popular contempt. This effort to effect their resurrection will prove abortive.

THE FIELD OF THE FICTIONIST.

This is truly the age of inventions, not merely mechanical devices, but verbal contrivances also. The kind, quality and effect of the latter creation depend considerably on the ingenuity of the person or class perfecting it, and it always varies from the other from the first in that it not only is not copyrighted or patented, but its free distribution and use are desired and expected. The range of these concoctions is practically illimitable, extending from a feeble phrase with a suggestion of humor in it and so harmless that an infant is safe in its presence, along through varying shades and tortuous grooves of irony, ridicule, bombast, satire, vindictiveness and malice to the apex of the group—the crowning point, the top blossom and culmination, so to speak, of creative and paraphrastic turpitude—that is, downright, unscrupulous, uncalculated, unmitigated falsehood. There is so much competition in this line of business owing to there being no restrictions placed upon it, that only a few excel; it is very much like the legitimate professions—the ranks are always overcrowded, but there is generally plenty of room at the top. A genius, as in some other callings, develops soon and commences to attract attention at a very early stage of his career, not because his occupation is new to the world, but because he is new in the occupation. This class of the gentry referred to have always at least one redeeming feature—they are skillful, and attract attention if not admiration to the manner in which the thing is done, although we may despise the thing itself. To witness a scapling would be a painful and sickening experience; but if it had to be witnessed, by all means we would desire a first-class scapling as the actor on that occasion.

In some departments of literature facts are not available, in others not necessary, in the preparation of a perfectly moral, instructive and enjoyable document. Proctor Knott's great speech on Duluth contained nothing but exaggerated details, sly mendacity and audacious witticisms, yet it was by means of this lampooning more than anything else that a thieving

land and general subsidy bill was hustled out of Congress. Nor are humorists or satirists expected to conform to exact representations, otherwise their occupation would be gone and the real ones would be missed—only they should confine themselves to proper subjects, and then they seldom do harm even if they accomplish no good. Dramatists are not supposed to rely upon facts entirely, even when composing historical dramas; if they did, some parts of their work would be unbearable because of dryness, others unendurable because of length, and others insupportable because of repulsiveness; in omitting fidelity to facts and substituting something more nearly in accordance with the theme in hand and more in consonance with a well-digested plot, these authors, if skillful, commit no breach of veracity. It is those bunglers who have only the disposition to prevaricate without the ability to attach their prevarications to an admirable flight of fancy or to an imaginative condition of things in which humor abounds or a lesson can be learned, that are dispicable. And how much worse is it when they create a circumstance without even the shadow of fact for a basis, with the intent of doing others harm or creating false and mischievous impressions in the minds of the people!

THE QUESTION OF TEXT BOOKS.

THE Convention of Superintendents of District Schools meets in the University building at 10 o'clock on Monday next for the purpose of adopting school text books to be used for the ensuing five years. The agents of several of the large publishing houses have been actively engaged for several weeks in presenting the claims of their respective books to the teachers and superintendents, and the comparative merits of the competing books are doubtless, by this time, very well understood by those who will be called to act upon them.

We have already given our views in regard to any sweeping changes of books, which, even if desirable, the people are not in a condition to afford. If, in some subjects, changes seem to be peremptorily required, they should be confined to such subjects, and above all let those books be selected which the majority of the superintendents deem best adapted to our schools, without fear or favor to any publishing house under any pretext whatever. If any reason for adoption is assigned by an advocate of any book outside of the particular merits of the book itself it should not be listened to for a moment. Nor should any slight difference in price have much weight. The competition among publishers is very great, and if one book has a higher price than another, it may be found to have corresponding advantages in size, illustrations or other points of mechanical make up. Of course the convention will not allow the people to be imposed upon by the adoption of books which are unreasonably dear as compared with others; it will not be necessary; but an excess of a few cents in the price of a book should not be allowed to prevent its adoption if the Superintendents believe that it contains just what the pupils should learn, and that the cheaper book is less desirable, provided, of course, as already intimated, that the price of such book is not unreasonable or exorbitant, as compared with others similar in size and appearance. The people should not be imposed upon, even to promote the cause of education.

THEY HAVE NO RIGHTS.

At length we have from a Colorado exchange, a frank declaration of the views held by a large proportion of the inhabitants of those portions of the country that are afflicted with Indian troubles. No words are wasted in argument, but conclusions are pointedly stated:

"The Apache murderers now raiding through Arizona might be stopped by simply notifying them that for every white man killed by them two Apaches now being fattened by the Government in Florida would be hanged, and make good the threat. The Apache has no rights that a white man is bound to respect."

The brutality of such sentiments is not mitigated by the numbers who entertain them, and the fact that they are prevalent in States and Territories where Indians are still found, is disgraceful to our nation, as well as an explanation in great part, of the causes that lead to Indian troubles. While the whites continue to act on the principle that the Indians have no rights which they are bound to respect, there will be trouble between the races till the weaker becomes extinct, or at least powerless to continue a conflict.

TROUBLE IN HAWAII.

THINGS in Hawaii are in a pretty advanced stage of disorder according to accounts received. The white inhabitants of Honolulu, numbering some 8,000, are drilling and preparing for the

trouble which seems imminent; the Chinese, of whom there are more than 20,000 in the kingdom, are drilling and practicing at target shooting; the king himself is never seen outside his palace, and that has been perforated with port holes from which cannon project; and, in short, the air seems full of a spirit which unchecked means a bloody and fateful struggle. The trouble seems to have originated with the Chinese and not, as they claim, without some cause; Kalakaua, it is said, sold two of their companies the monopoly of the opium trade of the Kingdom and put the money, or most of it, in his own pocket, which would not have concerned the celestials in the slightest degree but for the assertion that he had either sold goods which he was unable to deliver, or neglected to keep his engagement, and hence the hostility of the heathen. But this is only a small part of the story. If the trouble originated with the Mongolians, it has not been entirely carried on by them, for the investigations which always pour in like a torrent when once a disclosure is made against a suspected person did not fall in this case, and the result is a state of things which threatens to dethrone the unfortunate monarch, and may cost him his liberty if not his life. He is charged with having played fast and loose with Claus Spreckels, the sugar king, who worked the sovereign for a similar arrangement to that concluded with the Chinese; extravagance of the most unvarnished and voluminous character is laid at his door, and of course in all this there will not be wanting the usual exaggerations and concoctions to make the theme swell and round out to sufficient proportions to command attention.

It is said the white residents have appealed to their respective governments for protection, and that if the present government is overthrown a republic will be established. This is scarcely credible, as the islands are hardly the kind of soil in which republicanism would take root. But, however it may be or whatever the outcome, one thing is tolerably certain—that with all his faults Kalakaua has been a better ruler than many of his predecessors and as good, perhaps, as any that could be found among his countrymen. He has always been in advance of his people and in trying to adopt methods that would make them more like their neighbors, he may have run beyond the proper limit; but that his excesses are as flagrant as reported, we will wait for further advice before accepting. He has shown so many noble traits in his career that we decline to believe the derogatory reports concerning him to be true, at least as a whole.

RECANTATION.

In connection with the position in which Dr. McGlynn now finds himself placed, Henry George, in his paper, the *Standard*, refers to the case of Galileo. He pictures the trembling old man of three score and ten, weakened by long imprisonment, and, as some say, by torture on the rack, kneeling before the scarlet robed cardinals, and with his open hand upon the Scriptures, denying on oath that which he knew to be true. Following is a translation from the Latin of the recantation uttered by Galileo on that occasion:

"That the sun is the center of the universe and immovable by local motion is an absurd proposition, false in philosophy, and formally heretical; because it is expressly contrary to sacred Scripture.

That the earth is not the centre of the universe, nor immovable, but is moved even by a diurnal motion, is also an absurd proposition, false in philosophy and, theologically considered, at least, erroneous in faith.

With a sincere heart and unfeigned faith, I abjure, curse and detest the above mentioned errors and heresies."

The object had in view in recounting the harrowing features of Galileo's case is to influence public opinion in relation to that of Dr. McGlynn, and lead the Papal See to be cautious in its treatment of him. He and his friends insist that he ought to be permitted to retain his membership in the Roman Catholic Church, and even his priestly office, though engaged in promulgating teachings that are in violation of the doctrines of that church and though he defiantly refuses to recant the same or cease to advocate them.

If Galileo taught that which was in violation of the creed of the church of which he was a member, that church had a right to excommunicate him. It would be as much a violation of natural justice to compel a church to countenance the teachings of a heretical member as to forbid the latter to enjoy the right of his own opinions. The crime committed by the Romish Church in the case of Galileo did not consist in threatening to excommunicate him, but in the use of physical force, imprisonment and torture, for the purpose of compelling him to recant truths which his superior intellect had discovered and was able to comprehend.

So in the case of Dr. McGlynn; the Vatican has a right to demand of him that he cease promulgating doctrines regarded as in violation of the teach-

ings of the church which he claims to represent, and of the best interests of society; and it further has the right to excommunicate him for refusing to comply with the demand. If Dr. McGlynn was possessed of the honesty and dignity of a really great reformer, so far from protesting against excommunication from a church which opposes what he holds to be great truths, he would find it impossible to conscientiously remain a member of it, and would voluntarily withdraw from it.

THE "WORLD" BALLOON.

THE *New York World* is a very able and enterprising newspaper. There is also manifest in its columns a spirit of independence and fairness which at times often lead it to the assistance of a just but feeble cause struggling against oppression and power. All this is commendable, and justifies us in sounding its praises in accordance with the degree of merit exhibited.

Not satisfied with ordinary newspaper achievements, our *New York* exchange launches out extensively in other fields of enterprise. It lately had constructed at immense expense a mammoth balloon, which was shipped to St. Louis by rail and from that point it started on its aerial voyage back to New York yesterday. It contains four persons—a professional aeronaut, a government meteorologist, a *World* correspondent and a photographer. A number of carrier pigeons were taken from St. Louis, which were to be let loose at intervals with brief messages detailing progress, etc., and a convenient arrangement for dispatching to the *World* is provided, this being a number of telegraph blanks on which is a printed request that the finder will take it to the nearest telegraph office for transmission; these will be attached to weights, of course, and dropped when passing a city or town. The mean distance from the earth at which the air-ship was expected to make its perilous voyage is 5,000 feet, though this might be largely increased, as it would be necessary, in case of drifting into a counter current of air, to rise higher or sink lower as the occasion might require, until a propitious channel was again reached. The professor, in an interview, thought it might be necessary at times to ascend to the enormous height of 30,000 feet, or say five and a half miles, to proceed in the desired direction, but this certainly should be avoided even at the expense of postponing the further progress of the trip. That is about the height to which Tissandier and two other French aeronauts ascended some years ago at Paris, and when they descended one of them was dead, another dying and the third very feeble; the atmosphere is so very rarified at that altitude that it will not sustain life for but a short time, and even then it is likely to result in injuries more or less pronounced in accordance with the vitality and lung power of the victim.

The *World* balloon was seen going over Detroit, Michigan, at one o'clock this morning, headed west northwest. This is eighty degrees or more of a variance from the line desired, and indicated a further removal from or nearer approach to the earth without delay. We sincerely trust the balloon and its occupants may reach their destination safely and in good season.

A MOST IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

WE direct attention to the call of the Central Committee of the People's Party in Salt Lake County for a mass convention to be held next Saturday. Delegates are then to be chosen to attend the Territorial or State Convention on June 30th, when a Constitution is to be framed and adopted and measures are to be taken to gain the admission of Utah into the Union as a State. This mass convention is of great importance, and we urge upon all citizens in this county the necessity of responding to the call.

This is not designed as a class or sectarian movement, or in the sole interest of any party, clique or denomination. It is to be a mass convention of the whole people, or of those who choose to attend and may be regarded as representatives of the whole people. From what we can learn, the intention of its promoters is to unite, in good faith, with decent people of every shade of opinion and politics, for the purpose of delivering this Territory from the bondage of the territorial system. They do not wish to capture the new State for one portion of the community, but to ensure to all who co-operate in the movement a fair share of representation in every preliminary and in every department of the new government, if the attempt shall this time prove successful.

This step, then, must recommend itself to all persons who feel they can act freely in the proposed march towards the liberty designed by the founders of this great nation. What kind of Constitution shall be adopted will depend upon the kind of delegates that shall be chosen to attend the Constitutional Convention. And that depends upon the action taken at the mass conventions. There-

fore, everybody who desires to have any influence in shaping the future destinies of the Territory should participate in the primary action to be taken next Saturday.

At the same time as this Salt Lake meeting, mass conventions are to be held in every county in Utah. We draw the attention of our readers to the fact and suggest to them that this has the appearance of something of more than ordinary interest, with which they would do wisely and well to become acquainted. Statehood is the sure destiny of Utah and it belongs to the people of every class and party to determine the character of the new commonwealth and participate in the measures necessary to ensure its establishment and perpetuity.

THE OLD FOLKS' AFFAIR.

WE learn from the committee of the old folks' excursion that the encouragement they have received from all quarters far surpasses what they had reason to anticipate. It takes the shape of substantial aid and kindly commendatory words. These manifestations of appreciation do not proceed alone from people in Utah, but also from not a few who are in places more or less distant.

Those enterprises have been wonderfully successful in attaining their object—making one day in the often monotonous lives of the aged bright and cheerful, by surrounding them with a perfect flood of the sunshine emitted from kindly and benevolent hearts solicitous for their happiness. The interest taken in these occasions has never flagged from the first, but, on the contrary, has increased with the progress of time until they appear to have become a fixed institution in the community.

One specially inviting feature connected with them is their non-sectarian character, the regulation age being the only requisite to participation.

The excursion of Wednesday bids fair to eclipse all its predecessors in point of proportions, as well as facilities for the enjoyment of those who will have part in it.

A STAGE ROBBERY.

It sounds like going back to the days of Claude Duval and Sixteen-String Jack, when those worthies made Honuslow Heath a place to be dreaded and shunned, to read of the stage robbery accomplished in Missouri yesterday by three freebooters. The bandits were masked, not in the romantic fashion of the worthies above named, but with handkerchiefs and, shirt sleeves having holes cut in them through which to see; and they exhibited no such thorough-going, business-like qualities either, for out of a total of \$2,500 in possession of the stage passengers, the Missouri blunders captured only one-tenth or \$250; either Jack or Claude, and we may go further and include another cotemporary, Dick Turpin, would have smiled blandly at the travelers' attempts at concealment, have said in the smoothest of tones some such thing as—"I dislike to trouble you very much, but would you be kind enough to remove that boot?" or to a lady—"Don't let this distress you, madame, I can remove your earrings, without causing you the slightest annoyance," and it would have been done; the inmates of the coach would have been wished a pleasant journey and gone on as completely plucked as a Thanksgiving turkey. In those days the stage coach was the only inland method of transportation that laid any claim to speed; a journey was a matter involving some little time and expense, and only those who were well to do, as a rule, went on it. Sometimes the passengers were not annoyed or interrupted at all; but generally they were. There was then a glamour of romance surrounding and a dash of adventure entering into the proceeding which diverted it of some of its dread; but continued hangings, imprisonments and banishments thinned out the ranks of the highway gentry then and it was supposed that the almost universal use of railways and steamers for traveling had turned the tide of brigandage in civilized countries to them: these being more rapid, better guarded and nearer to assistance make a raid upon one of them a serious undertaking for the plunderers as well as the plundered, and hence only the frontier is chosen as the scene of a descent as a general thing. So that robberies of passengers are at most if not entirely unknown where they once were most common—in England—and are being crowded into the narrow space intervening between the outside lines of civilization and the uncultivable hills and plains of the extreme west in America. But just as we have the business located with something like definiteness, an old-fashioned stage robbery, supposed to be an obsolete thing, takes place in the heart of one of the most populous States of the Union, near a good-sized town, and almost within hailing distance of a railway! Add to this circumstance the brutal train rob-