

EDITORIALS.

THE AUSTRALIAN CENTENNIAL.

Two weeks ago the people of Melbourne celebrated the centennial of the English settlement of Australia, that great island-continent of which the world hears so much and knows so little. It was visited by the British two hundred years ago, but it is only one hundred years since the colony of New South Wales was founded. It was almost entirely a penal settlement at first. England found it necessary to relieve her overcrowded prisons by banishing the worst of her criminals instead of housing them, so "transportation" became the severest penalty next to hanging and was viewed by some as the worse of the two.

Melbourne is just half a century old. It was founded in 1835 and rapidly increased in population, because of the great gold excitement which in 1851 drew so many adventurers from Europe, 100,000 a year rushing to worship at the shrine of the yellow deity, and putting in at Melbourne on their way. It was at that time that Victoria, of which Melbourne is the most important town, was set off as a separate province, and four years later it was made independent, with a parliament of its own.

Melbourne has a population, with its suburbs, of over 500,000. It is grandly situated, has fine public buildings, large cathedrals, universities, art galleries, etc., and is spread over a large area so that it is not densely settled. The climate is mild, snow does not fall there, and extreme heat is never felt except when the north winds blow. It is very prosperous, and thousands from the old world have worked their way from poverty to plenty in Melbourne.

The Australian continent is divided as follows: Down through the centre are North and South Australia; on one side West Australia, on the other, Victoria in the south-east, north of it New South Wales, and the rest Queensland. It has an immense dry, treeless, uninhabitable wilderness in the interior, but Anglo-Saxon energy has carried across it the lines necessary to flash intelligence from point to point of its populated regions. Its progress has kept pace with the march of colonial civilization in other parts of the world, and many persons sent there for their sins against society have reformed and become law-abiding and respectable, and their posterity, uniting with the hardy seekers after material independence from the crowded cities of the world, have formed a thrifty and vigorous race which will not always be under a monarchical and foreign government. One hundred years have wrought marvelous changes in Australia; the next centennial will witness more marvelous advancement than the past.

STREET RAILROAD SYNDICATES.

REFERENCE to our exchanges shows that there is an effort in nearly every city of considerable size in the country to obtain franchises for street railroads. On the surface there does not appear any organized movement in this direction. Different individuals and corporations move in the matter. But their simultaneous operations suggest identity of interests. Is it not probable that those who figure at the front are only working for outside capital hiding behind? The following, which we clip from the Peoria, Illinois, Journal, may serve to solve the mystery. At any rate it is worthy the attention of the Salt Lake City Council:

"Syndicates of capitalists are now going about the country purchasing street railroads. They bought those in Bloomington some time ago. The Indianapolis lines have recently been transferred and now all the lines in Davenport, Rock Island and Moline have gone the same way. The capitalization of the last named syndicate is six millions of dollars. The truth is that we are just beginning to discover in this country the value of an established business. Money is worth no more than four per cent. A street railway, therefore in a flourishing city that can pay ten per cent, is worth two and a half times what it cost to build it. It comes about as near being a permanent investment as any thing can be in this round world. We need not point out the fact that such a transfer is bad for a city. Most of the capitalists live abroad and the entire earnings of the line are shipped away and spent in other places. It is far better to have the lines owned at home as we do here in Peoria. It is on this account that we insist that our own local companies shall be encouraged as far as possible. This feeling is, we believe general, and we are glad to see it."

Los Angeles, Cal., August 19.—Elmer Alford, of Olive Heights, this county, was drowned at Long Beach this afternoon. He was carried out by the undertow while bathing. The deceased was 28 years old and came from Kansas recently.

EUROPEAN AND ASIATIC CONNECTIONS.

THREE days and four hours from Paris to Constantinople. That is now the schedule time by through train between those two important cities. Five days was formerly the shortest time in which the trip could be made. Railway enterprise has made the change, and the capitals of the French Republic and the Turkish Empire are now within easy traveling distance. This will greatly facilitate commercial relations between Europe and Asia, and suggest other connections that will bring the Orient and the Occident in much closer communion than ever before.

It may surprise many to hear that the chief mover in this shortening up of railroad travel on the European continent is much abused Bulgaria. It is Bulgarian capital and push that have done the work. The first through train reached Sofia on the 12th inst. on its way to the famous port on the Bosphorus, and a grand banquet was then given in honor of the event. Prince Ferdinand presided at the festive board, and, in an animated speech, dilated upon the importance of this direct and rapid connection between the gay French city, the representative of modern art, luxury and civilization in general, and the ancient capital of Turkey on the far east of the European continent, looking over into Asia and surrounded by scenes associated with the grandest events of the old Græco-Roman Empire. The little State over which so much intrigue and diplomatic wire-pulling have been wasted, is entitled to credit for its enterprise.

The next move upon the old world railway board will be a line from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf. This, connecting with steamers at Bassorah, will convey the traveler on to Bombay and Calcutta, and thus the time from England to India will be reduced to a couple of weeks' journey. Plans have been projected for this road, and concessions from the Sultan make them practical and probable of execution. In the grand work of civilizing the world and bringing together the various races of the earth in community of interests, the railroad figures as a most important and powerful factor.

MORE POLITICAL "PULLS" IN CALIFORNIA.

WE published a few days ago an account of the manner in which affairs are managed in San Francisco, and how crime and fraud escape punishment through political "pulls" and the union of interest between officeholders and the lower elements of society. It seems that other California towns are afflicted with the same evil. And lest our statement of the case might vex the sweet-tempered and honey-lipped apologists for every social and political wrong outside of Utah and exaggerators of every spot of imperfection within, we clip the following from the editorial columns of the San Francisco Chronicle, with whom they can pick a quarrel for telling unpleasant truth just as soon as they please:

"Merced has done well to issue an order to all vagrants and disreputable characters to leave town, under pain of prosecution and punishment. The city authorities have become alarmed at the acts of these gentry in Fresno, and propose to clear the town of them. The great trouble in dealing with these social parasites is that they generally secure people to swear that they have regular employment, or else they gain a political 'pull' with the Police Court Judges, and are saved from all punishment for their offenses. No creature is so unspokeably vile as he who draws his living from the wages of dissolute women, yet we have scores of these libels on manhood walking the streets of San Francisco, who have been repeatedly arrested by the police, only to be released by corrupt judges."

That is just the kind of thing we want to avoid in Utah, and we shall just as long as The People keep control of local affairs by vigilance and duty at the polls at every general and municipal election.

PREACHERS IN POLITICS.

THE Republicans of Indiana have nominated for Lieut. Governor of the State, the Rev. Ira Chase. He is said to be an able and exemplary man, eloquent, zealous and public-spirited. For what we know he may be in every way, but one, thoroughly qualified for the important position for which he has been named. But how about the terrible "union of church and state?" That is what it is called when some "Mormon" Elder of prominence is elected to a civil office. What's the difference if the nominee is a Presbyterian?

There are quite a number of sectarian preachers in Congress. We hear of no complaints about their political position. Why not? Is it not a violation of "the unwritten law of American politics," and "contrary to the genius of American institutions," for clergymen to figure in the affairs of state? Why do not the anti-"Mormon" "defenders of our country," set up a howl about the "union of church and state in Congress and in Indiana?" Of course the whole hubbub on this

question is nothing but noise and nonsense. A preacher is as likely to make as good a public officer as a lawyer or a speculator, and much better than a political wire-puller, a bar-room bummer, or a blood-and-thunder "patriot," who is ready to bleed for his country—in talk, but wants his country's treasury to bleed for him in reality. There is nothing the matter with the Rev. Ira, only it looks as if he were on the wrong ticket for success.

"FORGOTTEN CRIMES."

THE New York Press has the following to say in regard to a recent occurrence in this city. The defendant referred to is not a "Mormon Bishop." That was a gratuitous piece of deception common with the creature who dresses up dispatches for the purpose of stirring up prejudice against Utah, and carefully suppresses any news that would tend to give the outside public such news and information as would have the effect of beautifying the Territory. Almost every person accused of a grave offense is reported to be a "Mormon Bishop," and crimes known to have been committed by "Gentiles" are published as "Mormon atrocities." These are curious accompaniments of the exposition car and the Chamber of Commerce pamphlets, designed to correct the common errors of the public in regard to Utah and its people. The Press says:

"The arrest of Howard O. Spencer, a Mormon Bishop for a murder alleged to have been committed twenty-nine years ago, may be justified by the strict construction of the law, but does not accord with the common sense principles which usually regulate its enforcement. As the object of law is the prevention of crime rather than the infliction of suffering upon the criminal, it is advisable to let forgotten crimes rest and judge men by their known lives."

"The story of the past, badly crowded as it is with the sickening details of legal retributions, would be more bloody still but for the moral statute of limitations, which allows forgotten crimes to remain in oblivion. The contemptible superstition of *Mormonism* must be driven from the land, but in dealing with it the authorities will do well to remember that acts of vengeance are not contemplated by the law and by attracting sympathy too often defeat its purpose."

THE SERPENT SEEN AGAIN.

SCIENTISTS assert that the sea serpent is a myth, on the ground that its existence is impossible. A friend informs us that he has met with many mariners whom he esteemed to be reliable who have been willing to solemnly swear that they have seen the monster of the sea. Other men of character and veracity have offered similar testimony, which has been at different times given to the public. How all these witnesses who claim to have seen with their eyes could be mistaken is an anomaly. As their are "more things in heaven and earth," and likewise in the sea, "than is dreamed of" in human philosophy, it is not consistent to accept the testimony of those who have not seen as overwhelming that of persons who have. A short time ago a dispatch was sent out from Providence, R. I., on the subject of the sea serpent, and the *Scientific American* considered it of sufficient importance to reproduce it in its last issue. The dispatch says:

"The sea serpent seen off Watch Hill, R. I., is reported again in the same district. The sloop *Mary Lane*, Capt. Delory, was lately on her homeward trip from New London, and when two miles southwest of Point Judith, on Saturday, Capt. Delory sighted a monster head two feet above the water and about fifty yards distant. The appearance of the head is described as like that of an alligator. The jaws looked to be at least five feet in length, and were studded with teeth six inches long, while the eyes were as large as the crown of a hat. Back from the head ran a huge fin. The body moved rapidly through the water. The entire length of the creature as estimated in its passing the boat was about seventy feet. The captain says it was within about ten feet as it swept by the vessel. Glimpses of its body, which was about the size of a barrel, showed bright grayish scales."

WHAT HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE.

PEOPLE not acquainted with the Republican candidate for President of the United States, and who have formed their ideas of his personal appearance from the bust portraits that have appeared in the newspapers and campaign documents, imagine him to be a man of large proportions and fine presence. The following description will serve to undeceive them. It is from the pen of the Indianapolis correspondent of the Boston *Globe*, and may be received as reliable:

"Gen. Harrison is not an ordinary strong man. He is weakly built. His height cannot be more than five feet five inches. From his hips upward he has the breadth, depth and circumference of a six-footer. His arms, however, are an exception. They are small and short. His legs would answer to the same description. They are extremely short and small. His feet are quite delicate. The result is rather an awkward carriage. His walk is a slow snuff and a swing. He looks top-heavy, and gains, by contrast, a massive head. His shoulders are broad and strong, but they stoop. The head seems almost to sit on them immediately. His short chin whiskers entirely hide the neck. He need never, for appearance sake, wear a collar. His hair and beard, gray underneath and light-brown outside, leave only room enough between the two collars for his eyes and forehead. The face is not as well made as the head. It is unsymmetrically broad, and it is hollow in the centre. The lower half grows outward and downward, the other half upward and outward, leaving his nose neutral in the valley between. The forehead bulges quite nobly. But the eyes are pale and weak. They are not large, and they squint somewhat. The general effect of the face is not certain and reassuring. Its wearer might be bored and ready to say something cynical or unpleasant when you had closed the door behind you. I do not know of a face among all the Presidents that I do not like better and feel surer of. It reflects to the last degree the unresponsive coldness of the man. It must be very difficult to grow enthusiastic over his presence simply."

PUPPYMANIA.

THE infatuation of some women, we will not call them ladies, for ugly, overfed and useless dogs as pets and constant companions, is one of the fads and crazes of this peculiar age. A woman at one end of a string and a dog at the other, is one of the most common sights of afternoons on fashionable promenades in eastern cities. Pugs are to be seen in ladies' laps in carriages, and often in their arms and reclining on their bosoms. The curs are loaded and stuffed while many a human being near by is starving, and dog doctors make handsome fees for physicking the pampered and portly canines.

A few days ago there was an elaborate funeral of a deceased Skye terrier, the pet of a rich widow in New York. The patient had been attended during its last illness by Dr. Herbert King, who gave his certificate that death had ensued from natural causes, and application was made to the Board of Health for a permit for its burial. The following reply was made by the Registrar officer:

Aug. 14, 1888.

To whom it may concern:

Application has been made to this office for the burial of a dog called "Cozy Bell." As this office is not authorized to grant burial permits for the burial of dogs, I deem a permit unnecessary. You will, therefore, consider that a permit for burial from this office is not requisite and that you can inter the dog without one. Yours truly, etc., Dr. J. T. NAULE, Registrar.

The bereaved widow was waited upon by sympathizing friends but was inconsolable. Her grief is described as "pitiful in the extreme." The remains were placed on a satin cushion in a velvet covered casket upon a catafalque. A plot was purchased for its interment in Woodlawn cemetery, at a cost of \$200, and the remains after being viewed were conveyed there tenderly by train, Undertaker Winterbottom having charge of the funeral arrangements.

Comment would be superfluous. The facts are as stated, and metropolitan papers have given them place in their columns. Surely the course of puppymania can no further go.

[COMMUNICATED.]

RUSSIA'S BARBARIC POLITICS.

THE northern part of Scandinavia is, as is well known, inhabited by a nomadic people, known as Laps. In the high latitudes where these people endeavor to wrest from nature a scanty living, no agriculture is possible, the soil being covered with several feet deep of snow during the greater part of the year. But the Laps possess in their reindeer herds all they need for their maintenance. The flesh and the milk of these animals furnish their masters with food, the skins are used for tents and clothing; the bones are carved into spoons, knives and various utensils as well as ornaments; the sinews are made into threads and cords. A Lap is considered wealthy when he possesses 1,000 deer, and many count their herds by several thousands.

The habits of these reindeer are peculiar. They know instinctively where to go for their food, and the owners have to follow their animals on their yearly wanderings which are very regular and extend from the coast of the Atlantic to the coast of the White Sea. It now appears that the Russian government have prohibited the Laps from entering the Russian domain on the customary routes. New routes are

laid out. Anybody who knows the situation knows what this means. The reindeer will instinctively follow their customary routes, and it is next to impossible to drive them any other way.

A prohibition to prevent the Laps from traveling on their usual routes means nothing less than endless transgressions on the part of these wandering children of nature, transgressions for which they cannot by any rule of justice be held accountable. It means that the Russian government will rob these poor wretches of their only means of subsistence. Their herds will gradually diminish and the people be slowly starved to death.

This is another instance of the cruelty and violence of man, an outrage which the civilized powers of Europe ought to prevent if possible, or at least to protest against.

The Laps in question are Swedish subjects, and it is possible that the cruel prohibition is an effort to provoke a quarrel with that power in order to give Russia an excuse for seizing upon the northern parts of Scandinavia, a project which the great czar has often contemplated, in order to obtain a harbor for her fleet, more convenient than is now to be found in the vast Russian Empire.

INCREASED POSTAL SERVICE.

OUR friends in the southern portion of the Territory will doubtless appreciate the successful efforts of Hon. John T. Caine, Delegate to Congress from Utah, in securing for certain localities of that section increased postal service. The following copy of a letter, which we are enabled to publish, tells its own tale in that regard:

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECOND ASSISTANT
POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
August 14th, 1888.

SIR:—In reply to your communication of the 14th ult., I have the honor to inform you that orders have this day been issued increasing service on routes No. 4177 (Pangulitch to Beaver) to six times a week, and on route No. 4160 (Marysval to Kanab) to six times a week between Pangulitch and Kanab, from September 1st, 1888.

Very respectfully,
H. R. HARRIS,
Acting Second Asst. P. M. Gen'l.
Hon. John T. Caine,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

THE SANITARY QUESTION.

WE are gratified to learn that the views of the *DESERT NEWS* on the sewerage question are endorsed by sensible citizens of both classes of the community; of this we have had repeated assurances from many quarters. They are what we have advocated for many years. They have no reference to political or any other opinions except those that relate to sanitary and economical questions. When the attempt is made to combat plain, simple arguments and palpable facts with anger, abuse and false insinuations, all but the crazed and the designing can perceive the weakness of the assault.

Plunge this city into overwhelming debt, waste the limited water supply that is needed for domestic, garden, lawn and other every day purposes, dump the city's foul refuse where it will become a stench in the people's nostrils and make a breeding spot for the germs of contagious diseases, and call that sanitary wisdom, or domestic economy, or modern enterprise or use any other high sounding euphemistic phrase you please, but experience and results will demonstrate that it is what blunt people would characterize as tomfoolery, craziness or a reckless attempt to please a few "boomers" and speculators and their supporters.

We are as deeply interested as any one in the permanent prosperity of this City and Territory. We speak for the people—the common people, if you choose to call them so, as well as the uncommon, not for any class, creed or party. The people, thank God, are not yet under the domination of either a moneyed or a speculating ring, but are the majority at the polls. And the City Councils and Legislatures are their servants not the tools of any clique. The views of the great body of citizens holding the ballot should govern in these matters. And when any small faction, no matter how much money, or noise, or impudence it may represent, commences to abuse and threaten and bulldoze, because its schemes do not work as intended, the majority will show their appreciation of such attempts and make it clear that neither minorities nor public officers are master, but the People.

When the canal project was mooted, requiring the expenditure of large sums of money and the contracting of a bonded debt, the people were consulted, and they cast their votes in favor of the measure. We do not think any great movement involving large outlay to come out of the pockets of the people should be entered upon, until the taxpayers who are interested have an opportunity of expressing their views concerning it. And we have too high an opinion of the gentle-