

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### THE MARCH OF EMPIRE.

The islands of Hawaii are practically a part and parcel of the great Federal Republic of the Western Hemisphere. All that remains to complete the union is altogether technical and formal, being the acceptance of such action by the Hawaiian legislature; as this body is being held in session for this very purpose, the hoisting of the Stars and Stripes over the government building at Honolulu awaits the reception of the congressional document rather than anything more formal.

This is a consummation that has been striven for for half a century. Hawaii is one of our natural outposts and being nearer to our territory than to any other in the world, it was the proper thing for the islands to fall to us when they fell anywhere, as they must in the very nature of things have done in a short time whether Congress acted or not. All question regarding their disposition being now at rest and the Sandwich group being attached to the United States, the work of assimilation must be begun in earnest and pushed along as rapidly as circumstances will permit. One powerful incentive in this direction would be a cable; this will probably receive immediate attention and be pushed to rapid completion.

No arrangement regarding the political status of the islands has been made, thus leaving things governmental as they are but without jurisdictional sovereignty. The United States being the owner of the group and all things relating thereto, can alone confer the necessary power to make and unmake public regulations. Doubtless this will receive immediate attention upon the ratification being completed, but in the absence of immediate communication it looks as though there might be a brief interregnum which, however, a provisional government consisting of the personnel of the previous one might bridge over.

So the islands are ours at last. Despite the opposition at home and abroad, opposition which has in places and at times amounted to rancor and bristled with threats, the dusky domain of the mid-Pacific nestles securely under the powerful wing of the great bird of freedom. It means countless advantages to us and inestimable benefits to the natives, who will be made acceptable citizens in good time. The matchless productive power of the islands will receive such an impetus as will make all former achievements in that line seem puerile indeed; while increased trade and the steady influx of settlers from this side the water will assuredly work out a transfiguration before the new generation reaches middle age. The benefits to our merchant and militant marine will be so vast as to be incomputable, and such a stimulus be imparted to the commercial and industrial energies of the Pacific coast as has not been equaled since the marvelous gold fields poured forth their streams of matchless wealth in the period following the days of '49.

Just think of it: Less than three months ago the United States did not possess a foot of ground in either the Atlantic or the Pacific; now how is it? Hawaii, the Ladrões and the Philippines stretching out in stately line toward the orient, and still greater possessions awaiting us on the other side. Call this imperialism or whatever else you may, it is still the fiat of fate, the unfolding of a registered decree, the resistless march of the genius of civilization, the spreading far and wide of the gospel of humanity. It is a tide

which like that of the seas may inspire the awe, the wonder and the fears of man, but in whose presence the forbidding hand is as powerless as a straw in the path of a mountain torrent.

### HOBSON RELEASED.

A feeling of general relief will pervade the American people on being informed that Hobson and his comrades are safe within the lines of their friends. The exchange was effected yesterday afternoon, and when the men re-entered American lines they were found to be, with slight exceptions, quite well and looking excellently.

The story of the released men's exploit reads more like a cleverly worked-up chapter of a highly sensational novel than cold, connected facts. Perhaps the same kind of thing was never done before, and it is a safe proposition that it is not likely to be again. The chances are very many to one that an attempt to duplicate the performance would have a much less gratifying finale attached to it; that not only would it be a failure from first to last, but a most tragic one. The feat was not without the characteristics of dare-deviltry, which often wins just once because of the breath-taking novelty which it presents to the enemy, but another time the novelty would be considerably reduced, and the firing upon the venture-some boys correspondingly improved.

It does not matter as to what was accomplished in the way of beneficial results to the American cause. The feature that stands out conspicuously is the unaffected moral and physical courage of the American soldier and sailor, his steadfast devotion to duty and his splendid discipline under any kind of circumstances. That the honors of this occasion happened to fall to Hobson is merely incidental; undoubtedly any other man that might have been selected would have done the same as he did, although there is no disparagement of Hobson on that or any other account. Nor is there of the gallant fellows who went with him; each is entitled to special mention and promotion, not forgetting even the poor stowaway. Honors to all and a hearty welcome!

### WELL DONE BY ALL.

Old Folks' day at Lagoon on Wednesday was indeed one of rejoicing by the veterans of this city and vicinity, as well as by the more youthful who attended as visitors. There were nearly 2,000 of the old folks over seventy years, the greater portion of them from Salt Lake county; Davis county also furnishing a goodly share. About 5,000 people were in the grounds during the day, some 3,500 of these being carried to and fro on the Salt Lake & Ogden railway trains, the remainder coming in vehicles and on Oregon Short Line trains from the northern part of Davis county. In the whole assemblage the best of feelings prevailed, as is the usual experience at the Old Folks' gatherings all over the State, and everybody seemed to be anxious to make everybody else happy, and certainly succeeded. There was plenty of entertainment; and as for the eatables, to judge by what was provided, Davis county is indeed the land Bountiful, and produces the very best, for of the choicest foods there was sufficient left over for another day's repast for the veteran guests.

Always having an enjoyable time on these occasions, the Old Folks never had a better day than this one; never

were they more bounteously and carefully provided for. For all this the highest praise is due the energetic Old Folks committee, who have general supervision of these gatherings; the Stake Presidency, Bishops and committees in Davis county, who had the duty of entertaining the honored guests; Manager Bamberger and his corps of assistants of Lagoon, and also of the Salt Lake & Ogden railway; the Oregon Short Line railway officials; and the officials of the Salt Lake City and the Rapid Transit street railways, who conducted the transportation department of the occasion; and the extensive corps of assistants, waiters and others who provided vehicles and the necessary facilities which aided to make a great success of Old Folks day. All worked well and with a hearty good will, their meed of reward being in the good they were doing by enhancing the joys and comforts of those who have borne "the heat and burden of the day." Honor to the veterans, and thanks to those who strive to make them happy!

### A COMING EVENT.

A musical event of considerable importance is to take place in this city in October next. The national Elsteddof will be held, and as an additional attraction the greatest of all adjudicators in the person of Dr. Joseph Parry of Wales will attend and officiate. During his stay here he will endeavor to effect a union of all the religious choirs and singing societies in a musical festival to be led by himself. This would undoubtedly be one of the most attractive things in that or in fact any line ever offered the people of the great West and could not fail to be immensely popular. The doctor recently conducted a chorus of 4,000 voices at Crystal Palace, London, and is admittedly the ablest man in that line in existence. He is also an excellent and a voluminous composer, being the author of more sacred songs than any other man in any part of the world.

Utah is well to the fore in the matter of appreciation and patronage of the musical art, and the most classical there is to be had will not lack of appreciation for want of technical culture nor the simplest because of the absence of the musical ear. Dr. Parry's visit will be an event to be remembered.

### CONSOLIDATION OF RACES.

To the future historian whose duty it will be to portray the world during the present century, the consolidation of races into world powers will appear as one of the most striking features. The beginning of this century saw the human family divided and subdivided without special regard to racial characteristics. Since then disintegration, consolidation and expansion have constantly taken place. The result is marvelous. The Slavs have established a colossal empire stretching over almost the whole of northern Europe and Asia. The Germans have united, acquired three wide dominions in Africa and are now endeavoring to plant their flag in other parts of the world. The French, though nearly crushed by the advancing hosts of the Teutons, have rallied and grasped a vast area in North Africa as well as part of South Africa and Indo-China. The British are embracing the globe, and the United States, which a hundred years ago had just commenced to advance beyond the Alleghenies, is now reaching out beyond the Pacific coast and far out into the Atlantic. Russia, Germany, France, Great Britain and the United States have become the masters of the world.

The time must necessarily come when