

more and more to depart from sacredness in dealing with all subjects, we are not willing to so regard it. The paper above referred to has already adopted the new method of spelling the name of the day.

PERSONAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL.

Mr. Cleveland's cabinet as completed possesses many surprises, not the least among them being that he has been so successful in the one feature of choosing poor men. This is a departure from his procedure in 1885 when, being himself poor, he selected rich advisers. But the eight years having brought a reversal in his own case, he being now tolerably rich, it is only natural that the rule of reversal should also continue as to his official family.

In other respects, too, the distinguished chief has given the gossips many a text. If the selection of Judge Gresham created amazement among the partisans on both sides, the other names decided upon have been quite as unexpected because they were generally so obscure. No one knows better than an American that the best metal is not always found glittering on the surface; and in view of Mr. Cleveland's good fortune in choosing singularly capable officials before, his countrymen will be slow to condemn the new appointees on the mere ground of previous obscurity.

There is a prevailing belief, however, that in his advisers in the present instance he has not improved on the cabinet of 1885. Gresham may be quite the equal of Bayard, perhaps his superior; but Carlisle as a financial bulwark may scarcely be compared with Daniel Manning, while Herbert does not give the impression of administrative capacity such as made Whitney as secretary of the navy the most prominent official of his day. Hoke Smith, being young, has the world for his oyster, but of the late Lamar it could not be said that he was only an experiment. Mr. Garland, though a man of unquestioned ability, was handicapped as attorney general eight years ago by certain "entangling alliances," which Mr. Olney, through being less known, may escape. Dan Lamont will not bring to the conduct of the war department the Puritan blue blood and wealth which made Mr. Endicott so statuesque, nor will he be likely to exceed him in administrative ability. As to the comparative talents of Mr. Vilas and Mr. Bissell, the former and future postmaster general, it will be perhaps sufficient to say that the first did not achieve and the second will have much to do to equal the triumphs of the present incumbent, Mr. Wanamaker.

Geographically considered, the President-elect might have gone farther and fared no worse. As before, he startles precedent by giving two cabinet places to citizens of his own state—Manning and Whitney before, Lamont and Bissell this time; a generosity that would seem to be more than even the Empire state deserves. Massachusetts once again gets a representative—Olney this year, Endicott in 1885. Illinois furnishes both the Vice-President and premier, in the persons of Stevenson and Gresham; eight years ago the former honor went to

Indiana—Hendricks—and the latter to Delaware—Bayard. The South, which formerly had two places, Lamar in the interior department and Garland as attorney general, will now have three: Carlisle in the treasury, Smith in the interior and Herbert in the navy department. Vilas, and afterwards Dickinson, who represented the Northwest in the office of postmaster general before, have no successor from their particular section; and the choice of J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska for the agricultural department barely saves the great West from a similar slight. In a word, New York and the South seem to have it all.

STANDARD BOOKS OF THE CHURCH.

A correspondent at Coalville, Summit county, sends the subjoined communication, to which an answer is requested through the columns of the NEWS:

In F. D. Richards and J. A. Little's Compendium it is stated that "The Bible, Book of Mormon, Book of Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price and Sayings of Joseph, the Seer, are our guides in faith and doctrine. The first four have been adopted as such by a vote of the Saints in general Conference."

Would you please give the date of the Conference when this was done? Would you also be kind enough to answer the question, Should not the Pearl of Great Price be on the stands of the meeting houses of the Saints along with the other three books mentioned?

On the last day of the general Conference which convened in this city October 6, 1880, the books mentioned were submitted to the vote of the members of the Church. The minutes of the proceedings were published in the DESERET NEWS at the time. The general authorities of the Church were first unanimously sustained; then President George Q. Cannon said:

I hold in my hand the book of Doctrine and Covenants and also the book The Pearl of Great Price, which books contain revelations of God. In Kirtland, the Doctrine and Covenants in its original form, as first printed, was submitted to the officers of the Church and the members of the Church to vote upon. As there have been additions made to it by the publishing of revelations which were not contained in the original edition, it has been deemed wise to submit these books with their contents to the Conference, to see whether the Conference will vote to accept the books and their contents as from God, and binding upon us as a people and as a Church.

President Joseph F. Smith said, I move that we receive and accept the revelations contained in these books, as revelations from God to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and to all the world.

The motion was seconded and sustained by unanimous vote of the whole Conference.

In accepting the Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price as containing the word of God to His people, the Bible and Book of Mormon are also accepted, for these works are expressly endorsed as inspired writings in the revelations given to the Church. One quotation will suffice to make this clear. In a revelation given in April, 1830, the Lord says:

And gave him power from on high . . . to translate the Book of Mormon . . . which was given by inspiration, and is confirmed to others by the ministering of angels, and is declared unto the world by them, proving to the world that the Holy Scriptures are true.—Doc. and Cov. sec. xx, 8-11.

This is an inspired testimony to the inspiration and divine authority of the Book of Mormon and the Bible, accepted by the Church in the conference above referred to. The statement in the Compendium is perfectly correct.

As to the second question, it follows from what is already said that the Pearl of Great Price should be found among the other standard works of the Church in our meeting houses. The authorities of the Church have repeatedly expressed themselves to that effect.

OUR MUSEUM.

A local notice which appeared in our columns yesterday, and another which finds place therein today, record the contributing of valuable specimens, natural and manufactured, to the Deseret Museum. We think that such a course cannot be too strongly urged upon all who have objects of interest. The Latter-day Saints send their Elders into almost every part of the habitable earth, and it would be difficult to find a community amongst which geographical and such other knowledge as comes through travel, abounded more than here.

Only a day or two ago the writer found himself one of a party composed of five gentlemen and three ladies. One of the men talked in a modest way of his experiences during several years, travel in the Southern and Northwestern states; a second gave an interesting description of sights and scenes in Holland; a third spoke from personal acquaintance of Denmark and the Danes; the fourth told of Italy and Switzerland, and the fifth showed himself well versed in Samoan affairs from a sojourn of years in those distant isles. Nor were the ladies less experienced; one of them had been with her husband, preaching the Gospel of peace and good will to man by example if not by public precept in the isles of the sea; another told of her girlhood in merry England. The value of travel and of varied experience as an educator is now very generally recognized; and we know of no people to whom such extended advantages in these directions are more easily of access than to the Latter-day Saints.

While in foreign parts many of our missionaries collect little things which together form an interesting record of strange experiences; but after returning home, too many of these persons allow their collections to be scattered, and so to become comparatively valueless. A shell is given to this friend, a stone to that, and a lot of ferns to a third; and soon what would have been a most useful cabinet is dispersed; and such of the specimens as are not lost or destroyed are little more than objects of simple curiosity.

Now we have a museum among us; an institution which is worthy of our highest commendation. It is supported for purely philanthropic purposes;