

The Deseret Weekly.

PUBLISHED BY

THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50.

Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50.
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE . . . EDITOR.

Saturday, - - September 14, 1889.

FORMATION OF NEW STATES.

THE Territory of Wyoming has caught the State fever. It is very contagious. All the Territories are affected by it more or less. It is to be hoped that they will remain under its influence until they are no more—as Territories, and that they will all soon emerge into the political life beyond, and shine in the full glory of sovereign statehood.

Four of the Territories will shortly be members of the Union. It is not probable that this number will be increased during the next session of Congress. Idaho is making the most strenuous exertions to "get there," but the unrepugnant and cumbersome constitution on which that dignity is expected to be reached, is too frail a foundation to build an American commonwealth upon, and in all probability the efforts will fail. There are strong objections against the other Territories which are seeking admission and it will take time to overcome them.

Wyoming has the smallest prospects, at present, of any of them, in our opinion. Although we do not think the small figures furnished by the late Governor Moonlight did justice to the numerical status of our eastern neighbor, yet the population is altogether too far below the established standard to warrant any expectation of success. The holding of the constitutional convention just now, we regard as premature. And the fact that it exhibits a leaning towards Democratic preponderance, will form as weighty an objection as the paucity of population.

Still, the work may not be altogether labor in vain. It is well enough to have a constitution prepared and to obtain the experience which will be gained in holding the convention. It will be valuable when the time comes for definite and successful work. For Wyoming and all the rest of the Territories are destined to the proud position of States in the Union, and only a little time will intervene before that

consummation will be reached. An extra convention or so will do no harm, and may be productive of much good.

Utah has held several constitutional conventions, some of them when there was no present likelihoods of favorable action by Congress. It was a duty devolving upon the citizens. All people should be active in seeking to obtain and maintain their rights and privileges under the Constitution and laws of their country. If they are denied these sacred heritages the fault will not then be theirs. And the familiarity with principles and measures and provisions and the *modus operandi* of the formation of organic acts, which the work occasions, will greatly facilitate future labors when the time comes for victory.

The project of uniting Utah with Nevada has been several times mooted, and just now is attracting much attention at a distance. Nearer home it is scarcely considered. Some members of Congress are greatly in favor of the project. They desire to rejuvenate and rehabilitate the State which is looked upon as almost moribund. But neither the people of Nevada nor the non-"Mormon" inhabitants of Utah seem to relish the project, for fear the new annex would become the main building.

Perhaps it would perform a double service: remove the scandal which the presence of a "rotten borough" occasions in the United States, and at the same time take out of national politics the interminable and troublesome "Mormon" question. If there was any use in presenting a "Mormon" view of the matter, we might have something to say on the advantages, or otherwise, of this amalgamation. But it is not likely, in the present condition of public or congressional sentiment, that the wishes of the "Mormon" people would receive anything like fair consideration, so we forbear.

However, "manifest destiny" points to the obliteration of the territorial system before many years are past, and it will be a grand day for the United States, when the vassalage and injustice and anti-republicanism involved in the system will be swept away forever. States, free, sovereign, independent and yet United States, were contemplated only, when the national Constitution was framed. And until such commonwealths are the only organizations of that character existing within the boundaries of this great

nation, the true principles and grandness of republican government will not shine forth in all the fulness of their glory.

A CHANGE OF JUDGES.

The resignation of Judge Judd is not altogether unexpected. We have heard rumors of his intention in this regard several times. It is true that the office when held by an upright and conscientious man does not offer many strong inducements to remain in it. The salary is altogether too small to secure the energies and abilities of a talented and capable lawyer. Fees to any considerable value are only to be obtained by arrangement with the Clerk, and we would not insinuate for a moment that any Judge would "divy" with the clerk whom he appoints and whose position is very lucrative. Then there are many disagreeable things to do in the enforcement of special laws and an upright and sensitive man cannot help feeling a reluctance to sending men to prison who have none of the usual characteristics of actual criminals.

We hope Judge Judd will be successful at the bar. We understand it is his intention to remain in the Territory and that he has already selected his law partner. He will have our best wishes and we trust will reach his most sanguine expectations.

It is reported that Judge Henderson will also resign. In this case the political complexion of our Supreme Court would be radically changed and the majority would be Republicans. Well, this is a time of change, and so far as the people of Utah are concerned we do not know that it matters much what political party the Judges belong to. If President Harrison will give us honorable men and capable lawyers for this position it is all we will ask for.

BEN. HALLIDAY'S CLAIM.

AN eastern journal contains a statement connected with Ben Halliday, who was well known by many of the old residents of Utah. This noted overland stage coach man died some years ago. It appears that he has had a claim against the government for property destroyed by the Indians for a quarter of a century. This claim amounts to \$300,000, but originally it was \$6,000,000. The other morning it was