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UNGRAMMATICAL VERBOSITY.

If the members of the Legislature would submit some of their proposed bills to a schoolboy grammarian before introducing and printing them, the estimate of the educational qualification of the legislators could possibly reach a higher average. Of course, a man should not be blamed for what he does not know; but a professed reader and pleader and interpreter of the law ought to see that at least his particular measures are able to pass muster in the common rules of syntax. Many of them cannot, and some are so fearfully and wonderfully worded that they read as though they represented several pages of a thesaurus or dictionary shot out of a gun, with just about that much connected sense.

While on this subject it may not be improper to suggest that the verbiage and tiresome multiplication of words in statutes framed by lawyers is a custom more honored in the breach than the observance. Short sentences and plain statements are features of legislative composition which the multitude know how to appreciate. If the aim of the lawmakers could be more clearly fixed upon the object of clarifying instead of befogging the meaning of the statutes, there might not be so much business for lawyers but there would be an increase of intelligent patriotism among the masses. That legislator will win for himself an undying memory in the community's affections who stands like adamant against the idle phrases and the frequently absurd language of the lawbooks, and who insists that in statutes intended for the government of the people, the language be so plain and direct that the people can understand it.

MYTHS OF THE NORTH POLE.

Lately the discussion has been revived as to the question whether the present position of the North Pole has always been the same as it is at present. Should Fridtjof Nansen, as stated in the dispatch from St. Petersburg, have succeeded in finding land there, it is not impossible that he also has discovered some clue to further fruitful investigations in this direction.

Some scientists claim that the earth's axis within historic times must have changed position relative to the ecliptic. Before the revolution took place, they say, the countries round the former pole must have had the climate of an eternal spring and been a veritable paradise. Others deny the whole theory.

Notice has lately been called, however, to the fact that in the oldest records preserved as well as in the earliest myths of nearly all ancient nations there appear to be allusions to mighty revolutions in nature that possibly may be explained on the supposition that the relative position of the earth to the heavenly bodies suddenly became altered. These statements and allusions also seem to indicate that to the earliest inhabitants of the earth, the North Pole by no means was a terra incognita as it is now. In Genesis we have the well known reference to the division of the earth in the days of Peleg. And all through the prophetic and poetic books of the Old Testament, the manifestations of the presence of the Almighty are described in language that may well be supposed to be borrowed from some record of a mighty upheaval of nature. Here is one of many of these wonderfully beautiful metaphors:

> Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wrath. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.—2 Sam. xxii 8-11.

If we turn to the ancient mythologies we find in the Indian demonology Indra seen to be world-encircling Meru, which is represented as standing between the earth and the heaven, the heavenly bodies revolving round it. The Asuras, a certain class of evil demons, were supposed to live under this mountain while the mighty god Indra resided on top of it. It is admitted that ancient myths of demons originally are built on some clear celestial foundation, it is necessary certain that also fixed this most date from a time when that might be called the North Pole was situated in a well known country inhabited by perhaps a mighty people.

In the Scandinavian mythology the "Aesir" play an important role, and this name is perhaps the same as the Indian Asuras, whom the legend pictures as an evil race at war with the gods. At any rate the word "Asir" is in this day retained in the Scandinavian language, meaning a ridge or a hill, as if pointing to the Indian origin in the myth of the Asuras dwelling under the Meru mountains.

In the myths of all other ancient nations we are met with the same mountain, supposed to be the center of the earth and the heavens. The Chaldean settlements pictured the heavens as turning on a mountain they called Kurest-Kurra. Homer and Persians called the mountain Caucasus and had a myth to the effect that primitive man there sought refuge from a flood. Wagnerites are acquainted with the most ancient traditions of other Aryan nations, the proofs seem strong for the supposition that there was a time in the earth's past history, when the Polar region was well known to the inhabitants of the earth. But if this is so, there must have occurred some change in the whole position of the earth. At least, this is what some scientists now think is a tolerably well established fact.

A GOOD SELECTION.

The News sincerely congratulates Dr. A. Carrington Young upon his appointment as physician for the State prison. Besides being a thoroughly competent and a most skillful physician, he is the grandson of two of Utah's pioneers, and the son of parents who have lived in the State since the very beginning of its settlement, being himself born and reared here.

The stress who made the future State possible are appropriately recognized in appointments of this kind; and it is fitting, we think, that at least some of the honors be bestowed, where competency and the necessary qualifications exist, be given to the descendants of the old-timers in preference to men who are not any older, and who have come within two or three years and whose permanency of residence may be more or less affected by the public patronage they may receive. Not that we would have the later arrivals barred by any means from the chance of preferment, for among them may be found some of the brightest and worthiest members of the community. But they will naturally get their share, as merit always does. And when, one of these days, the last element of jealousy coming down from the recent past shall have been wiped out, there will be less necessity than now exists to show publicly that the spirit of broad fairness and generosity pervades every department of the public service. Again we say that Dr. Young's appointment, though it perhaps has not furnished the necessity for the foregoing remarks, is a proper and a gratifying step in the grand march of complete and continued reconstitution.

THAT OGDEN PETITION.

There is one thing which, in the dignity of their important office, legislators cannot afford to do, and that is to give way to anger at any petition which may be presented from the people of any locality. In an official capacity the Legislature is the controlling body in State affairs, and in considering anything of a public nature no member should lose his self-control. Especially should each member refrain from talking to himself personally that which is addressed to the whole body; his own feelings should be subservient to the duty demanded of him in a representative capacity whereby, in his exalted position, he is required to perform the labors of office "with charity toward all, malice toward none"—not even the malice that may be awakened by an address not altogether in proper form. An efficient legislator seldom fails to remember that "a soft answer turneth away wrath," and that he is under obligations to follow this rule when any part of his own or his fellow member's constituency is moved to severe criticism, provoked or otherwise.

No doubt there was in the petition of Ogden citizens, presented to the Senate on Thursday, something to awaken the wrath of an individual not given to maintaining a steady control over his temper; but there was nothing in it to cause a dignified, conservative body, like the Senate of a great State should be, to fly into a passion, and indulge in threats of violence on the in and outs of the matter. The responsible character of the signers was in itself a guarantee that, however inappropriate their choice of language might have been, disrespect or insult was not intended. The signers are reputable, prominent citizens, of whom it is well known that they do not go about insulting individuals or representative bodies of the people, albeit some of them may be a little brusque and plain in their manner of expression. The explanation of the presence of the signers, made before the female discussion was entered upon, should have produced any individual explosion of anger; and the Senate did well when, in response to the suggestions of the Utah and Weber county members, it referred the whole business to a committee of inquiry.

As to the petition itself, it is the expression of an idea that prevails largely in other parts of the State than Ogden, and among a large proportion of the people. Its application is the Legislature was not in good taste; and the signers should withdraw it with an apology for having directed it toward the wrong parties, in consequence of a mistaken notion as to who are responsible for the evils complained of. It is true that there are before the State Legislature propositions for the creation of a long list of offices, longer perhaps than many of the members realize; but it is equally true that the prospect is very much against the Legislature consenting to such creation. As a rule the State Senators and Representatives are possessed of a true and sincere desire to enhance the welfare of the State, hence the insinuations of the petition, made knowingly, would be wholly unjustifiable; and if, after explanation and due consideration, the petitioners should insist on holding the position they have assumed, a scathing rebuke would be fully deserved on their part.

But there is some justification for the expressions contained in the petition, and for others of a still more severe character, although the State Legislature is not the body at which they should be directed. The evil complained of was committed before the State came into existence, and while the Territorial Legislature may be in some degree responsible and subject to criticism, it is only to the extent that they allowed smaller bodies power to commit the wrong protested against. In Ogden, as in other places, county as well as city, the making of offices for fine salaries, and the institution of high taxes and attendant evils has been largely the work of those in local control, and not of those in charge of the State's affairs. It is so in Salt Lake, and the Ogden petitioners will find it the same in Weber county if they will use a little investigating and fighting. When they do this, we believe they will see that their address to the State Legislature was wholly wrong, and honorable amends should be made therefor. If they want the evils corrected they should ask the Legislature to restrict the powers of those corporate bodies which have done the mischief; and in this they will have the active sympathy of taxpayers in every large municipality or populous county of the State. Up to the present, the majority of the legislators have given evidence of a determination to keep down expenses and to give the State wise and conservative legislation. Petitions ought to be directed to aid in the work thus so well begun, and not to lampooning members for the faults of somebody else who is perhaps nearer at home to the petitioners themselves.

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