

this object the commissioner was to obtain the necessary facts and evidence upon which to base a complaint and win a favorable decision. How energetically this work has been followed need not be again told; it is known to all who have read the daily papers and is conceded by parties on both sides of the controversy. That the hearing has not yet been had is due to no tardiness or unwillingness of the bureau—the railroads have been the ones to ask the postponement. Now that the matter has reached the phase of a conference such as it is proposed to hold within the next few days, it almost looks as though the local committee, if they expected any practical and adequate results, had committed a serious mistake in asking the withdrawal of the two members through whose endeavors and aggressiveness the contest has been brought to a crisis, the two men whom diligent study and patient research have qualified to carry it still further.—Col. J. W. Donnellan, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. S. W. Sears, commissioner of the transportation bureau of the Chamber. How positive the railroad people may have been in their unwillingness to treat with any committee of which these gentlemen were members, we do not know; in view of all that had been done and the preparations that had been made, we do not see that even if their unwillingness had been quite absolute it should have been necessary to meet it with such gracious consideration. The committee was chosen, as we understand it, to secure certain reductions for the shippers of this city and Territory, not to help the railroads out of any difficulties of theirs, real or threatened.

But it is the end, and not so much the means by which the end is reached, that the News, as the friend of this Territory's interests, is contending for. If a friendly conference between a committee of citizens and a committee of railroad men will bring about the desired result—well and good. We earnestly hope it may, for arbitration is preferable to litigation as a means of attaining any object. At the same time it is proper to remind the representatives of the citizens' interest that a strong case is believed to have been made out against the transportation companies, and that its success would have resulted in benefit to the Territory, aggregating, according to some estimates, one and a half to two millions of dollars annually. Bearing these things in mind, the committee ought to prepare themselves to resist any petty or trifling compromise. A great responsibility is laid upon them, a responsibility of which they will only be acquitted when they accept fair and equitable terms and clinch them with safeguards to insure their maintenance.

The News wishes to be the friend of the railroads as well as of the people. The roads have done much for this country, but the country has also done much for the roads. We want to see every unjust barrier to the development of Utah's resources removed, and expect to contend on that line to the end. Meanwhile we trust the Chamber of Commerce will continue its efforts. A new epoch in the history of transportation seems about to begin, and that organization will deserve much credit for hastening it.

## WORK OF THE WINDS.

THE residents of the north and east benches overlooking this city are sometimes treated to an æolian performance which they would much rather miss. The wind comes rumbling down the mountain sides like a great monster howling for prey and strikes the houses with a force that makes them quiver in every joint. This is not usually continuous, but it comes in gusts which become more and more frequent until they beat a regular tattoo on the sides of the more exposed houses, and when they "put in their best legs," sleeping is out of the question. Everything susceptible to high aerostatic pressure is either removed or severely shaken, and the experience is far from pleasant.

The origin of these blasts is something we are not entirely advised of. It is claimed in some quarters that they are brewed in the caverns and depressions of the neighboring mountains, acquiring the necessary rotary motion by emerging from a ravine and being caught up in a hollow, from whence they descend in cyclonic form to the lower level. This is, however, too abstruse a proposition to be discussed here. But it is noticeable that in nearly every case where one of these breezy incursions has been unusually violent we hear shortly afterwards of there having been a destructive windstorm somewhere east to the Rocky Mountains and generally near the Missouri river. Can these local demonstrations be all of such storms that were able to climb over the adjacent heights? If so, we are more fortunate in the physical characteristics of our mountain home than many of us are aware of; for, while the storms we have at times are quite severe and even alarming to the nervous, they amount to no more than a June zephyr in comparison with a full-grown, able-bodied cyclone.

## BREVITY IS BEST.

IN these days of ponderous political platforms and weighty letters of acceptance, it is refreshing, to people who do not attach much importance to such documents anyway, since they consider them little more than sonorous generalities and well-concocted declamations, to turn to the directness and brevity of earlier times. The simplicity and bluntness of Abraham Lincoln did not detract from his greatness or his popularity, and instead of waiting two or three months after his nomination to the Presidency, his letter of acceptance had been composed and forwarded to the printer within the week after he was chosen. For terseness and as a model that can be followed with profit by future aspirants for high elective honors, the communication deserves to be perpetuated. Here it is:

SPRINGFIELD (Ill.), May 23, 1860.

The Hon. George Ashmun, President of the Republican National Convention: "Sir—I accept the nomination tendered me by the convention over which you presided, and of which I am formally apprised in the letter of yourself and others acting as a committee of the convention for that purpose.

"The declaration of principles and sentiments which accompanies your letter meets my approval, and it shall be my care not to violate or disregard it in any part.

"Imploring the assistance of divine Providence, and with due regard to the views and feelings of all who were represented in the convention, to the rights of all the states and territories and people of the nation, to the inviolability of the Constitution and the perpetual unity, harmony and prosperity of all, I am most happy to co-operate for the practical success of the principles declared by the convention. Your obliged friend and fellow-citizen, ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

## PROPER BUT NOT PRACTICABLE.

A LITTLE paper emanating from Dayton, Ohio, under the title of the *Young Catholic Messenger* and an exponent of the religious views suggested by its name, presents an idea whose patriotic and sentimental purpose will fully make up for what may be wanting in a practical way. Starting out with the announcement that "we are not Americans, we are Columbians," it proceeds to address "the estimable and honorable body, the House of Representatives of the United States of America," stating that as a lasting feature of the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of our western continent by Christopher Columbus, "we suggest that the national Congressional body, the House of Representatives, conjointly with the honorable and estimable legislative bodies of our sister countries on our continent, inaugurate a movement and pass a bill to change the name of the new world from America to Columbia." It is proposed to call all the territory north of the Isthmus North Columbia and all the rest South Columbia, our country to be the "United States of North Columbia."

The *Messenger* is of the opinion that such change would rectify a "mistake that was born in ignorance and has lived in injustice," that it would be following the Biblical injunction to render honor to those to whom it is due; that it would receive the thanks and approbation of the world, and that it would shed immortal glory on the Fifty-second Congress for its high sense of justice and truth.

So say we all. There is scarcely a schoolboy that has become familiar with the history of this country and the circumstances of its discovery who has not marveled at the departure from poetic justice performed in giving to Amerigo Vesputci, against all precedent and every instinct of sentiment and justice, the station in literature and history which rightly belonged to the daring navigator whose feet first pressed the soil of San Salvador. So keenly is this wrong felt in a general way that Poetry, the younger and gentler sister of History, has invoked the equities and effected so much of reparation as could be accomplished in song and among the modern classics—hence we have the more melodious, better rounded and more fitting designation, Columbia. But this appellation is confined to its source, and what is wanted to make the situation exact and fitting before the world is what is suggested by the paper quoted—an official