

fused the honor. Dr. Phil Valtz Gudmundson is an Icelander, and second cousin to Brother Hjalmar Bjarnason in Spanish Fork.

If you republish an article from Pliny Miles' Rambles in Iceland, which appeared in the DESERET NEWS of June 20, 1855, it will be of great interest at the present.

JOHN THORGEIRSON.

It is not often that a newspaper is able to turn back to its file of thirty-eight years ago, or that it has present subscribers whose memories as to its articles of that early period are so vivid. It will be seen from our friend's letter that the NEWS is thus favored in both respects. In compliance with his request we reproduce on another page of this issue "The Rambles in Iceland," written by Pliny Miles, and published in the DESERET NEWS of Wednesday, June 20, 1855.

OUR GROWTH BY ANNEXATION.

Annexation is in the air. The people, at this writing, are still waiting with more or less anxiety for the treaty which President Cleveland is supposed to be preparing in lieu of the one submitted by President Harrison. As the minds of the senators must be reasonably well prepared regarding the subject by this time, there should be but little delay in having action upon it. It requires a two-thirds favorable vote of the Senate to ratify any treaty, but it is understood that that proposition is already committed to annexation.

The New York Mail and Express holds that all our achievements in this direction have been in the line of natural progress—that they have never been influenced by intrigue nor conducted by conspiracy. Perhaps if the single exception of Cuba were made, a heartier endorsement would be given to the statement, but that does not amount to much. Reference is made to the various filibustering expeditions, all of which the government has opposed even where it has not suppressed and punished those engaged in them; and then we are shown that the most important territorial addition of our government was that effected by Thomas Jefferson in the purchase of Louisiana from France in 1803. Jefferson paid Napoleon \$15,000,000 for this magnificent American empire, and that sum was considered at the time an adequate compensation. The Louisiana territory extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the upper Mississippi and the great lakes, and thence westward to Mexico and the region embracing the whole territory of Oregon. The purchase was subsequently divided into what is today Louisiana proper, Arkansas, Indian Territory, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota, Wyoming, the best part of Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington—a splendid addition to our national domain, and we can take a double pride in its possession, from the fact that it was acquired by peaceful and honorable means.

Florida was subsequently acquired from Spain in the same way, and Texas was taken under circumstances quite similar to those which prevail in the Hawaiian case; a great number of Americans who had settled in the

Lone Star state—then an independent republic—asked to be annexed to the United States and it was done, this being in 1845. In 1848 New Mexico, Utah and California were purchased, although it is and was contended by some that our country had a right to take them because of the conquest of Mexico and not pay anything, but this idea did not prevail. The next accession was that of Arizona by reason of what is known as the Gadsden purchase, from Mexico. This new territory was not given a separate territorial government until 1863, when John A. Gurley was appointed its first governor. In the meantime the United States had effected the purchase of the Indian lands in Georgia and Alabama. The latest territorial acquisition was Alaska, which the United States bought from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000. The czar made the first overture, but it was not long before Secretary Seward seized the opportunity, accepted the offer, and the United States government at once ratified the transaction.

The present is not the first movement looking to the acquisition of Hawaii. It is a matter of history that the islands, in 1854, were offered a provisional government by this country, but it was refused. They, or those who speak for them, have changed their minds decidedly, although it took them forty-nine years to do it.

OUR SOUTHERN FRIENDS INDIGNANT.

The Beaver Utonian indulges in a somewhat justifiable outburst of indignation over the recent failure of a term of court down there. It sarcastically remarks that Judge Bartch is perhaps not to blame for failing to break the record, and then sails away in this majestic style:

Again justice has folded her wings long enough to eat and roost one night and then in her time-honored manner has bumped herself back to the saline city of the north. The old lady got her bandage ready to play her blind-man's buff game of "justice" and just as we were all ready to have a rattling good time the crusty old virgin declared she wouldn't play.

A letter referring to Vanderbuilt's famous sentence regarding the disposition to be made of the public, the Utonian arrives at the conclusion that "this territorial form of government makes Utah's governor a czar. His absolute veto power might be used as a last if her legislature should see fit to appropriate a few dollars for men of her own selection to expend at World's Fair commissioners; and he might check in a like patriotic way any other like crooked, dishonest, wicked and malicious legislation. He has been up to this time a great big administrator of this estate, but without a surrogate who cared to examine into his official conduct of affairs."

The connection does not appear. In what way was Governor Thomas or any other man than Judge Bartch responsible for the early adjournment of the term of the Second district? And if the governor was not responsible, for what reason is his name mentioned and why is he spoken of as a czar? Supposing all that our southern friend says in the above quotation be true, it seems to us that the remedy does not

lie in either open or covert abuse of anybody, more particularly those who by no sense of construction are to blame. A good many people who do not live in the Second district sympathize with the people there—of because of the really shabby manner in which they have been treated regarding terms of court and the annoyance and expense to which they are subjected in many cases in traveling long distances only to arrive in Beaver and find that they journeyed in vain. We would make it better for them if we could, and think the course we are pursuing in printing this article more effectual than any other. Judge Bartch gave reasons which seemed sufficient for not going ahead with his assigned work, and this would make it appear more a misfortune than a piece of intentional neglect; he, however, set the time for a full term not very far ahead, when it will be pleasant traveling, and we trust there will be no excuse for not holding the full term. Let us wait and see what comes of it, and in the meantime indignation might as well be bottled up.

The Utonian thinks "it is a waste of time for people to come to Beaver for the purpose of attending a session of the district court. If your case is of sufficient importance you had better take it to Provo, Salt Lake or Ogden. Under no circumstances does the Utonian advise you to come here next May unless President Cleveland has in the meantime made changes in our executive and judicial departments." Still harping on the executive! And suppose President Cleveland should make the changes indicated, and they proved to be, like their predecessors, disposed to spend most of their time here, would the President in such case be held responsible? Suppose a judge were assigned to that district and positively ordered to stay there, of what avail would the order be if, on the first assembling of court, he were to mount the bench just long enough to say—"Mr. Marshal, adjourn the court for the term!" Whose fault would that be? The President's or the Governor's? Let us be consistent.

Our country contemporary then falls into a mild form of resignation. After repeating the warning to the people not to come to Beaver in May, it says:

Your coming will result in your pecuniary loss. Be orderly. Respect the laws. If exasperated by repeated loss of your property by theft, or by damages in any manner, bear with these conditions yet a little longer. Continue the same devotion to principles you have yielded in the past, the same veneration for law. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. If President Cleveland does not soon make the needed change, a monster mass meeting might be organized for the Second district. Let it be such an one as will be creditable to all concerned.

The latter part has the better sound. By all means let the people not only respect but obey the laws and all orders of court so long as they can be obeyed consistently, and if summoned, subpoenaed or cited to appear at the May term, fail not to respond if such a thing be at all practicable, and if not practicable let a showing to that effect be made. Any advice opposed to this is bad and can have naught but bad results. If on arrival at Beaver the old story should be repeated, then