

GOD'S WILL BE DONE.

No sweeter spirit ever left the realms of light to take on the clothing of mortality than that which this morning was released from its tabernacle of clay in far-off Germany;—we speak of the eternal part of David Hongland Cannon, who has died in the line of duty while preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and bearing the glad message of salvation to the inhabitants of the earth.

Even as a little child this boy gave evidence of the nobleness that goes to make up the character of perfect manhood. Affectionate, unselfish, generous, even-tempered—he possessed all the graces that win the heart's love; quick, energetic, thorough, of the highest integrity, he compelled the highest admiration of every one who knew him. As he grew from childhood to youth, and then strode sturdily from youth to man's estate, he lost none of his tenderness and innocence—whoever loved him once, came to love him each day more and more. He was cherished as a glory and a pride in his father's house, and he was an honor to human kind. Unassuming but zealous, he brought to his missionary labors the same qualities that distinguished him always—he went into the work in hand with his whole soul. A bright and useful future seemed to be opening before him; he would have proven capable and worthy every where. That his Maker had other uses for him than a mission here on earth, we who mourn his loss must with resignation admit. And though the praise of man be never sought and now can never need, still may his brothers' burning hearts put forth this feeble tribute to his goodness, while they exclaim, God's will be done!

THE OWNERSHIP OF AEROLITES.

The supreme courts of the country are having a good deal that is important and interesting to pass upon nowadays; occasionally, also, they have to contend with a proposition that is novel. One of the most unforeseen problems that ever engaged the attention of any tribunal was recently adjudicated by the supreme court of Iowa, dealing as it did with matter not of the earth, the subject in controversy being nothing more or less than a meteor. The question as to the ownership of the visitor from other realms was in dispute, and the court held that a "bolt from heaven" which has become partly buried in a farmer's (or, we presume, anybody else's) land is placed there by nature and belongs to the land, ergo to the owner of the land. A stranger or outsider who may have seen the visitation first, have been the only one in attendance when it arrived, and who under ordinary circumstances would have some rights in the premises as the discoverer the court holds is not "in it" at all; he has no more right to the meteoric stone than he has to any other boulder on another man's ground.

As the question never arose in court before, so far as the records show, and is not likely to occur again, it may be considered as thoroughly settled; un-

less, indeed, the discoverer should choose to take his case to the United States Supreme Court on the ground that it is a subject involving a foreign country.

THE CRY OF STATEHOOD.

The resolutions adopted by the Liberals at their territorial convention at Ogden last Wednesday consist of little less than laudation of the aims and works of that party and condemnation of the aims, accomplishments and intentions of the other parties past and present in Utah. This being in a general way the purport of Liberal resolutions and platforms during "all the years," it comes this time without the charm of novelty, and is even devoid of the force that sometimes accompanies earnest repetition. For these reasons public interest in the resolutions did not warrant their reproduction in full, nor would it now justify extended comment upon them. Threshing old straw is at best a healthful exercise, and only then to be resorted to when nothing else is on hand; it is always unprofitable and can never be made interesting.

The one point in the resolutions that is not open to the charge of utter senility is the bugaboo of statehood; and this, as is quite natural in the extremity to which their framers found themselves reduced, is made to do yeoman service. Thus we find that the Liberal party "recalls from the prospect of imminent statehood;" it views the conclusion as irresistible that "with the opportunity which would come with statehood this priesthood would again assume supreme control;" it is "unalterably opposed to near statehood for Utah;" and "believing that the only organized opposition to the scheme for the admission of Utah into the Union must come from the Liberal party," it calls upon all who believe that near statehood would be fraught with disaster to vote for the Liberal nominee for Delegate to Congress. There may be a few more references to the subject scattered along here and there over the platform, but the foregoing will be sufficient to show that the case is really deemed serious and the resolutionists are in very great distress about it.

It would be almost too bad to ridicule the fears that are embodied in these sentences, and yet that is precisely what they deserve. We take it that they are based upon a presumed anxiety of "this Priesthood" and the Mormon people to secure statehood and their participation in "the scheme" to bring it about. Statehood in itself, or say in an abstract sense, is not, we suppose, so dreadful a condition, even to a party calling itself Liberal. If there were no Mormons to be benefitted by it, there is scarcely a single Liberal who would lose much sleep over it or do so much "recoiling" at its prospect. There is scarcely a citizen so unpatriotic, even among the Tuscaroras, as to deny that in all that constitutes material fitness, Utah is prepared for the sovereignty of a state; scarcely an American, by birth, adoption or inclination that disputes this fair Territory's qualifications for full admission to and an equal rec-

ognition in the grand national sisterhood. But there are Mormons here! Ah, that gives another phase to the whole matter!

Now, the News cannot speak for the Democratic and Republican parties in the Territory, nor assert how much or how little they may mean or how sincere or insincere they may be in their various declarations and their somewhat confusing elucidation of their respective attitudes on this question of statehood. In all candor we suspect that both of them are playing largely for effect—perhaps only for the alarming effect that seems to have been produced upon the Liberals. We can say, however, in all certainty that it is not their position upon this question that is winning them adherents among the Mormons. The promises of either party in this respect would make no difference in the political affiliations of a Mormon who inclined to the other side. Nor would the division of the Mormons on party lines be one particle less sincere if the whole question of statehood were eliminated altogether. If these assertions puncture the Liberal falloon and let the gas out of it, so much the worse for the balloon; its texture ought to be something that will not suffer from thrusts of fact—and these are facts.

For 42 years the people of Utah have existed under a territorial form of government and despite every opposing circumstance they have prospered. If they haven't learned to like that form during all these years, they have at least become used to it. Their taxes have been low, their communities kept out of debt; and since the expenses of government were only partially laid upon them, they felt that the condition of tutelage or wardship was not without compensating benefit. When conditions have been such that they felt themselves oppressed by the representatives of the general government they have asked the privilege of self-government; ordinarily they have taken the frugal view that so long as the general government insisted on paying the expenses of our officials the privilege might be left to them. And certainly the present harmonious and contented condition of the Territory—so different to others through which we have passed—is one to cause every resident to think twice before wishing to fly from present ills to others that we know not of.

No; the Liberal party has no grounds or its alarm if it thinks the Mormons, either Priesthood or people, are in "a scheme" to secure "immediate statehood." The Mormons are so much better satisfied with their surroundings and circumstances today than with those which have preceded them that they are quite willing to leave well enough alone. They are not inviting any increased burdens these hard times when taxes are high enough already. They will not of course reject the responsibilities of statehood and its added expenses when they come, but they are contented to wait until everybody feels that they ought to come. Whatever move toward statehood is being made at present, if any such there really is, comes from other than Mormon sources. And when the boon so well-deserved is at last bestowed, it will be found that other than Mormon influ-