

when the Taeping-Wangs appear before the capital, will, of course, throw off his office-coat, like Mr. CUSHING, and sail in with force and arms to help the Manchon Tartars, for Mr. BROWNE was born on the banks of the Anna-Lafley. The good old policy of holding ourselves aloof from foreign entanglements and broils has been pretty fairly observed hitherto. But now we are growing "more Irish and less mee," and "bully for us" will probably be our motto for the future. No help for it.

The Mormon University has for some time been considering the question of adopting PRYMAN'S phonotypy, in place of the common alphabet in use in the Gentile world. It appealed to them partly on its intrinsic merits, and partly, doubtless, because it was fitting that a "peculiar people" should have a peculiar alphabet—and PRYMAN'S is *very* peculiar. But our correspondent tells us that even PRYMAN'S is now rather behind the wants of the Saints, who have voted to adopt the "Deseret Alphabet," which is a "mixture of all other alphabets." We would suggest still another possible combination. Why not adopt the characters in which the book of Mormon was written? Prof. ANTHON, who saw them, tells us that these were not only a "mixture of all alphabets," but had evidently been made up from "some book of alphabets"—Greek, German, Latin, Chaldaic, Chinese and everything else being peppered and salted in, together with algebraic and geometric signs. Now this alphabet would not only be peculiar, but would stand no risk of being adopted by Gentiles; and it would also allow the Book of Mormon to be read "in the original."

A bill has been offered in the Legislature to repeal the charter of the Greenwich-street Elevated Railway. Why this should be done we do not know. But whatever be the result of this action, the idea is likely to be carried out at no distant time. Gen. BARNUM, of Oregon, proposes, in a pamphlet, to construct a pair of such thoroughfares over our crowded streets—one to run from Broad-street, through Nassau and Chatham, to the Bowery, and so, by one of the avenues, to Harlem; the other through West Broadway to Canal and Sixth-avenue, and so on to Manhattanville. Way-stations on the first floors of corner houses would give entrance to the cars, at intervals of a few blocks. It is a pity our predecessors on this island had not foresight enough to leave us wider streets; and we only hope we may have sufficient care to transmit to our own posterity a wider order of thoroughfares at the upper end of the island, and not compel them to choose, as we must do, between burrowing under ground, like the moles and the Londoners, and flying over the heads of the people, like Japanese acrobats.

The great Nicaragua Railway between the two Oceans is again talked of, the Legislature of that State having recently had the subject under discussion. It may be remembered that the right to make it was granted to Capt. PIR, of the English Navy, for a term of ninety-nine years. The proposed route, from Monkey Point, forty miles north from Greytown, on the east, to the port of Realejo on the Pacific side, runs parallel to, or in the same direction with the present route of the lakes of Nicaragua; and a million and a half of acres in the districts of Chontales, Matagalpa, and Legovia have been conceded to the undertakers of the line. Mr. PIR's grant is in the interest of Mr. FRANCIS MORRIS and associates, of this city.

The liberal Christians of the Chicago *Advance* can see that prohibition and denouncement cannot work to any good purpose in the matter of the theatres. They would allow the young to go to them; but only after a censor had found the play to be a proper one. The best kind of censorship would be the presence of good respectable people at such places. If managers could calculate largely on such, they would not be so wanting in good sense as to permit impropriety on their boards. As it is, there is no great amount of indecency on our stages. No doubt they have foolery and buffoonery enough. But the best people are amused with buffoonery, when it is good. To improve the theatres the respectable people in general who can be amused in that way, should go to them, and not give them over to the younger and more reckless classes of the community.

The Springfield (Mass.) City Guard, which "voted unanimously to tender their services to sustain Congress in the present crisis in national affairs," would much more effectually show their patriotism and good sense by waiting until they are asked. President LINCOLN would not have thanked the people of the North for offering armed threats to the South before he called for his 75,000 volunteers, and the moral strength of the North in that struggle lay in the fact that, when it did fight, it was for the preservation of the Constitution and the laws which had been attacked by violence. There is no such crisis at hand now, nor even apprehended; and this talk of "offering troops" smacks altogether too strongly of Southern threats before the war and suggests a willingness to precipitate a necessity for them.

Rev. NEWMAN HALL seems to be meeting with a better fate than peace-makers generally do, for the usual result of trying to make up quarrels between friends is that each side, hearing only the arguments in favor of the other, believes the poor go-between to be its opponent and antagonistic partisan. But Mr. HALL spent some months in America, persuading us that, really, England as a whole was friendly to us during the war—and we almost believed him—and now we see he has been making a speech in London, at a great meeting, where he presented with great earnestness the American view of the *Alabama* question, and "carried the vast assemblage entirely with him." At all events, he is doing a good work in cultivating the *entente cordiale* between the two peoples, and we wish him success.

MINOR TOPICS.

The question before the House being whether \$6,000 should not be appropriated instead of \$1,000 to caring for the Smithsonian collections from exploring expeditions, Mr. SELYE said decidedly, No. "It would make a man or a woman sick to look at them, and he was opposed to taxing his constituents for any such purpose." The ingenuity of this argument at once brought the appropriation down from \$6,000 to \$4,000—though whether out of respect to the stomachs or the pockets of Mr. SELYE'S constituents, does not appear. Scientific gentlemen with a fondness for bottled snakes and stuffed lizards will please observe and profit by this tendency in modern legislation. And, by the way, we would suggest to the curators of the Smithsonian Institute, as a precautionary measure, that hereafter no young lady visitor be admitted to view the preserved reptiles,—especially if attended by a Congressman—lest she pledge him, in the excitement of the moment, against the museum appropriation.

When the belligerent patriots who desire to sacrifice themselves, Curtius-like, at this epoch, go far enough in their loud-mouthed oratory, it becomes harmless from its ludicrousness. The Philadelphia gentleman, for example, who said, the other night, that if impeachment was carried out, "they would ride up to their horses' bridles in blood in the streets of this city," surely cannot expect us to do anything except laugh or get puzzled at his rhetoric. It involves such perplexing questions of drainage in the Quaker City, and indeed of hydrostatics, hydraulics, and horse-swimming in general, that we must decline to reflect upon it.

The Virginia Convention lately settled the great and momentous question—"Shall Mr. TUCKER be allowed \$100 for his expenses?" We have forgotten which way they settled it, and have not the slightest desire to be informed. But we remember that our correspondent wrote that it cost four days of labor and \$5,000 in money to do it. At about the same rate the Louisiana Convention have been, it seems, elaborately considering such matters as whether "Mr. FISHER, a minister"—in fact, the Convention Chaplain who left so suddenly—should be paid \$100 or \$200 for his services. The Louisiana Convention votes \$13 a day to each member, and at this rate it can be calculated how much it costs, in the time consumed by a Constitutional Convention in settling small bills.

Some of the Southern papers are drawing great comfort from the statement, reported to them of course by telegraph, that "a document is in circulation in New-York indorsing the President and proposing *armed resistance* to the measures now in progress." This is cited by those journals as evidence of the "feeling of the people." We advise the Southern people to be cautious in drawing conclusions from such premises. They have suffered a good deal in the past from putting too much confidence in armed resistance to the Government on the part of the North. Their experience is too recent and too severe to render a repetition of this mistake just now excusable.

There is a quarrel "toward," on the subject of Hell Gate and its reefs, and the question has got into the Legislature; not to get rid of them, but to cultivate them, as it were, and regulate the profits; for, like many other evils and nuisances, they do good to some persons. The Sound-pilots and the Sea-pilots are at logger-heads, the former having a certain right to keep the latter out of the "gate;" and Mr. KIERNAN, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce at Albany, is about to open Pot Rock to the "tugs," by means of a new regulation. Better set about blowing up the whole nuisance—the reefs. The people of New-Haven, who mean to head us off, with that bridge, are removing their own pot-rocks and breakers from the bay, and we may fairly profit by their sensible example, since "it is lawful and right to learn from one's adversaries," according to the old saying. Nitro-glycerine is the "enactment" most needed in that Hell Gate question.

We are becoming rather bellicose and irrepresible, somehow, and the rest of mankind are beginning to regard us in that light, and call us odd, self-sufficient and overbearing. To say nothing just now of GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN and the 95 Americans found in the batch of 269 Fenians arrested in Ireland, there is our Consul CUSHING, of Rome, who, when the Garibaldians and Papalins were trying conclusions at Mentana, came to the fore with his shillela for the Pope—fancying himself the Consul Furius Camillus, probably. Then there is our ANSON BURLINGAME, coming out of China as the war missionary of the Manchon dynasty, with a long tail of secretaries, interpreters and Red Buttons, to invite American assistance against the rebels, they say, and offer certain concessions. We must, of course, send an envoy to Pekin, *vice* BURLINGAME, on the war-path; and who is it to be? Mr. ROSS BROWNE, very probably, who