

BAKER AND BECKWOURTH.

Editor The Conservative:

In the Conservative of October 10th, 1901, I read H. P. Bennet's interesting letter from Denver, Colorado, relating to some of the old mountaineers—Kit Carson, Jim Baker and Jim Beckwourth.

In the fall of 1856, I was in the employ of the Eureka Quartz Mining Company in Plumas county, California.

I very well remember Jim Beckwourth's visiting the Eureka Mills at that time. He was the guest of Hon. John Coulter, the president of the Eureka Quartz Mining Company. Beckwourth, at this time, was about 40 years of age. He was quite a noted character in northern California; and there was a

the thrilling story of his escape from the Blackfeet Indians; and he, at that time, showed us the varicose veins on his limbs below the knees. He was known as a famous scout and frontiersman, and when he visited Sacramento he would be invited to dine with the Governor of the state.

Nearly every young man in northern California at that time knew the interesting history of old Jim Beckwourth.

M. B. CHENEY.

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 19, 1901.

THE DUTY ON HIDES.

If the sentiment of business interests in New England has much influence upon congress, the movement to put hides back on the free list should

THE FORM OF STATE GOVERNMENTS.

BY EDWIN A. MUNGER.

It is one of the extraordinary anomalies of American politics that our federal constitution and form of government, the result of the united wisdom from all of the then states of the Union, should have been followed so little in the constitutions and forms of government of the several states themselves. The very features which were sought to be incorporated into the national form of government, and which were after a most exhaustive and particular examination rejected or largely modified, have in the main found ready lodgement in the basic law of the various states.

It is doubtful if any constitutional convention has ever been so distinguished for its zeal, earnestness and the high intellectual and political ability of its members as the constitutional convention which finally fixed the form of government for the United States. In that convention were found the ablest men of the day representing both sides of the scheme of government. There was found the group of men who, from their fear of tyrants, believed it to be safe to trust only the people, and that other group of men who, from their distrust of the ability of the masses of the people to settle all the petty details of government, were inclined toward a system very nearly akin to a limited monarchy.

As a result of the combined labors of this convention our federal constitution was brought into existence, having all the checks and balances, all of the many guaranties of liberty and the restraint of license that have made it the wonder and admiration of the world.

State Constitution Incomplete.

In the various constitutional conventions which are responsible for the fundamental law of the several states, the same questions have been met, but have not been examined with the thoroughness that characterized the deliberations of that great convention. Perhaps it is too much to ask that we should ever again see gathered together a body of men capable of producing that which has been so fittingly described as the greatest document ever evolved from the mind of man. But it ought not to be too much to expect that other conventions would be in some measure inclined to adopt those features of the federal constitution which seem to have contributed most to the success. As a matter of fact, the constitutional conventions of almost every state in the Union were dominated by that Jeffersonian policy which feared to trust a leader and thus make a weak government by de-



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valley near the eastern line of Plumas county, California, called Beckwourth's Valley; also a pass through the mountains called Beckwourth's Pass.

The immigrant—crossing the plains, in place of going by way of Nevada City and Auburn to Sacramento, would leave the old overland trail at a point near where the town of Reno, Nevada, now stands—they would go northwest and enter the state of California through Beckwourth's Valley, striking the headwaters of the middle fork of the Feather river near the Sulphur Springs ranch; and reach the Sacramento Valley by passing down through Gibsonville, Rabbit Creek and Marysville. This route, in 1856, was known as Beckwourth's Cut-off.

I very well remember of his relating

be something more than mere talk next year. Ever since the tariff of 1897 was adopted, New England men have asked to have this matter considered. They have been put off with one excuse after another. They have grown tired of such treatment, and seem to be in earnest this year. With the right sort of men at Washington, they can do a great deal. It takes push and insistence to get anything out of congress, especially a change in tariff rates. The trouble in the past few years has been that the New England men have been too easily rebuffed. They were told that it was impossible to grant their request, and they accepted the statement in good faith. Nothing is "impossible" in congress to the man of inflexible determination. The man who will not take "No" for an answer generally succeeds in getting what he wants in the long run.—Boston Advertiser.