

bery of Saturday last in Texas, and we have conclusive evidence of the fact that do what we will, contrive as we may, some remnants of the original predatory tribes are with us in one or another form and are only kept in restraint by the methods of populous civilization or the absence of opportunities. The "exchanges" effected are not always accomplished on a highway by means of intimidation either, but are going on every day and in almost every place; so that modern times have only scotched the snake, not killed it; preventives have simply changed the style somewhat, not the dispositions nor the manners of the men who engage in the business. It seems as if these people inherited their quality from preceding generations, not from particular families nor through especial conditions; their cases are hard to exactly define, but it is safe to say that they are of a class who perhaps would not accept of money as a gift, would not take great pains to find hidden gold, and could not be induced to do a day's work, except in furtherance of their calling, under any consideration; they only enjoy it when they take it by force or strategy from others.

### THE CZAR.

ALTHOUGH Russia is admittedly a power friendly to the United States, and probably the only one that took such an interest in the recent war of the rebellion as to station men of war in Northern ports of the United States, intimating that other nations must keep their hands off, yet the American press seems never to tire of getting off squibs about the Emperor of Russia, which would lead the casual reader to believe that he is in a constant state of excitement, and that the only recreation afforded him is that of dodging dynamite bombs and running from one hiding place to another, closely pursued by nihilists. It has even been intimated that this constant condition of peril has so wrought upon his mind that he is fast losing his reason and some journalists have gone so far as to speculate on the probable consequences of the sudden catastrophe that might at any moment be precipitated by the mad master of so many millions, in case he should determine, in a fit of frenzy, to involve the world in war. But there seems to be a general misapprehension of this subject that needs correction. What seems to be reliable information goes to show that Alexander III, Czar of all the Russias, is with his family comfortably ensconced in a large fortress of many acres in extent, perfectly inaccessible to nihilistic enemies, with everything necessary to comfort and recreation within the enclosure, and other nations having relations with him will find him doing business at the old stand in a very effective manner. It is true his advances have been temporarily repulsed upon the Turkish frontier, mainly in consequence of the attitude of Great Britain, but his forces are steadily advancing upon Herat and the British are erecting defensive fortifications preparatory to what may prove a death grapple of the two powers for dominion in the East. As to his reported insanity Mr. Maxim, the inventor of the famous maxim gun who has just paid a visit to the Czar, describes Alexander III as being a man of imperial presence, tall, stately, not in the least degree corpulent, with an eye as clear as if he had been, like Mr. Maxim himself, a totaller of the State of Maine. He is slightly inclined to be bald, but is in the prime of life, full of vigor and intelligence. It is impossible to look into his clear, open countenance, Mr. Maxim says, without realizing the absurdity of many of the stories current in the English press.

### THE GREAT JUBILEE.

On this day, fifty years ago, Victoria I was formally proclaimed Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, having ascended the throne the day previously; and one year and one week later she was crowned at Westminster, being eighteen years of age on the former occasion and nineteen years on the latter. In the interim Viscount Melbourne was at the head of the government, and with his assent as Premier and that of her subjects, she was united in marriage to Albert, Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, on the 10th day of February, 1840. By this marriage four sons and five daughters were born—Victoria, on November 21, 1840; Albert Edward, November 9, 1841; Alice, April 25, 1843; Alfred, August 6th, 1844; Helena, May 23rd, 1846; Louise, March 18th, 1848; Arthur, May 1st, 1850; Leopold, April 7th, 1853; Beatrice, April 14th, 1857. This is a family tree unparalleled in modern royal life; and when we take into consideration its connections and offspring, we have before us the picture of a veritable community, embracing nearly or remotely the blood of every civilized and enlightened first and second-class power on the globe, America alone excepted.

Victoria's reign has not been a turbulent one, nor has it been free from crises and shocks which but for wisdom, care and pru-

dence would have proved calamitous to a perhaps irretrievable degree. These are too numerous to be even epitomized, containing such important measures as the manifold and ever-prevailing issues arising out of English landlordism in Ireland; the disestablishment of the Irish Church; the establishment of the Free Church of Scotland; the Australian gold discovery; the Sepoy rebellion; the numerous far-away expeditions, notably that against Theodoros, of Abyssinia, who had proposed marriage to Her Majesty and imprisoned British subjects because she vouchsafed no reply to his offer; the great American rebellion, and so on. In all these, and all other, trying and momentous situations, Victoria's throne was unshaken and comparatively unthreatened, although at times it seemed as if the clouds were gathering darkly and a storm might burst furiously forth. She has been personally assailed several times, most of them with deadly intent, but all were so abortive as not to produce even temporary injury except the nervous shock naturally following such events. The first attempt was made by John Francis, in 1841, who fired a pistol at her; he was convicted and sentenced to death, but she commuted the sentence to transportation for life; the second attempt occurred in the same year, and the public are more or less familiar with the others, as they have occurred within the past few years.

Macaulay says of Queen Victoria that in her her subjects have found a wisest, gentlest, happiest Elizabeth; and it is claimed for her that in the statecraft of the day she was the Virgin Queen's superior. A thorough study of the English Constitution was incorporated in her education, and she knew much of the operation of the laws and the requirements of the people before the symbol of regal authority was placed within her grasp. "She comprehended the great truth," says a biographer, "that the powers of the crown are held in trust for the people and are the means, not the end, of government." By means of said comprehensiveness, scope of thought and firmness of purpose, Victoria has been in fact the only constitutional ruler Great Britain ever had; others have treated *magna charta* as an incident in the procedure of the nation, an instrument of elasticity and adaptability rather than the foundation and limitation of the scope of political power. This alone would have made her "every inch a Queen," even if the splendid example of virtue as a wife, fidelity as a mother and faithfulness as a Christian had not untidily placed a more precious coronet upon her brow than the one bestowed in the days of artless maidenhood amid the pomp and ceremony and splendor at Westminster Abbey forty-nine years ago.

Who can grasp by a simple effort of the mind a realization of what changes have been wrought in the affairs and methods of mankind, what obliterations and removals of state lines, and how the governing power of rulers has been reformed and relaxed within the half century in which Victoria has held sway over the destinies of the British Empire? It is a theme for volumes, not present discussion; and the story fully told would absorb more than one lie in the telling. From the days when Boadicea led the half-barbarous, skin-clad Britons against the invader, in her rude chariot, inspiring them to deeds of daring and battles of victory, down to the perfect civilization and almost universal intelligence of the English speaking races when Victoria first prattled it, is a great period of time, in which the extremes we have herein indicated prevailed; that was a wondrous transformation, one wrought in the tedious march of centuries; but with its mighty span and its slow but steady and irreversible advancement, it was of no more consequence, when we weigh well the affairs of the chief Anglo-Saxon race and its offshoots, than what has been accomplished since the Queen's advent in earthly affairs began. The locomotive, through whose beneficent aid frontiers have disappeared and the rudeness of nature has taken flight has permeated every nook and corner; the electric telegraph has annihilated time and space; the printing press, formerly a crude and imperfect evangel of civilization, has been perfected and its usefulness enlarged until it is the great and unopposed educator; the mother country and our American shores are brought within a week's travel of each other, and many other things, either of which were unknown and unthought of when she beheld the light of day, are now but seldom mentioned because we have them with us every day and are so familiar with their preservative and comforting power that we regard them as a mere matter of course. That Her Majesty has fostered and promoted all such measures, and all measures looking to the increased convenience, happiness and progress of mankind, is but one of the many queenly attributes whose praises will be sounded in psalms of joy throughout her realms today.

Nor has the Queen been slow to recognize and reward personal merit. In the accomplishment of a conspicuous instance in point, she not only noted but signified in proper manner her gratification, and also in the same act accomplished a measure of disenthralment worthy her people, her time and herself. The Jews were a proscribed class within a certain sphere; but the sterling qualities of statesmanship and the political

knowledge of Disraeli were not to be held in environment by such a feudal, cruel rule; and not only was he admitted to Parliament, but he was promoted from point to point until the limit of promotion was reached in the Earl of Beaconsfield, and the worthy manner in which he deputed himself in each case and under all circumstances illustrated the correctness of her judgment and the justice of her action. He became powerful enough to create the opportunity to partly repay her for her generosity, and improved it by making her Empress of India. That she was and is not on good terms personally with Gladstone is a great misfortune; nevertheless, when the voice of her people has been heard in his support and a place demanded for him at the head of the government, she has invariably acceded to the popular will and summoned him to her side as her chief adviser.

The last, but not the least by any means, of the crowning glories of Victoria's reign we have to present, is the fact that the messengers of the Gospel from Zion, bearing tidings of peace and good will and disseminating the plan of salvation, have found equal protection within her dominions that other people have found there, and they have never asked aught else from any earthly source. No hostile legislation has ever been recorded upon the statute books of England, nor has the sovereign ever expressed a desire that such should be or that any other treatment be meted out to our people than any other received. This would not be so conspicuous an instance if it were not so nearly solitary in its even-handed disposition toward mankind; and for this, and for her other graces and virtues as a woman and a ruler, we sympathetically join in the rejoicing so demonstratively proceeding within her hearing, and wish her a prolonged life, an undisturbed reign to the close and a peaceful departure from the life when the time comes for her to lay her burden down.

### PLEASE DON'T!

THERE are few spectacles so inexpressibly sad as that presented by an individual of the extremely rabid stripe when he explodes. He reminds one of that article of fireworks known to the exuberant youth as the revolving wheel. When it is lighted there is a whirr, a few sparks fly off, a sudden stop, a smell of brimstone, and all is over—the delight of the small boy collapses simultaneously with the display.

A Young fire-cracker fellow presented this picture a few days ago, when he lashed himself into a foam of impotent fury over a question of a choice of location on which to hold a proposed Fourth of July celebration. He favored having it in close proximity to certain religious edifices, and worked up a volcanic outburst of white heat rage as he hypothesized a probability of objection being raised against his project. He at once assumed the ground that this impromptu hypothesis was a *cusos belli*, and wanted his compatriots to go with their guns to the spot on which he proposed to celebrate.

There was something awful about the position taken by this young man, who announced that he had been converted from the religious views formerly held and advocated by him by listening to a Fourth of July oration. He was willing to call his companions to arms, and was desperately eager for the fray, although at the same time perfectly conscious that there was no party of the second part who had the slightest idea that anything was in any other condition than all serene.

If we had a word of advice for that young man, it would be to eschew all reference to weapons of war and fighting and gore. People who make loud and peremptory demands for powder and blood, fire and smoke are generally quite reticent and lymphatic when the real storm approaches. Those who resort to blow and bluster conflicts generally confine their struggles to the use of those windy utensils. Men who are converted from their religious convictions by a spread-eagle speech are not likely to be exceptions to the rule in this regard that history furnishes.

If that noisy young man knew how ridiculous he rendered himself in the eyes of all classes of the community he would not be likely to repeat the fantastic operation of the other evening.

### NEW TEXT BOOKS.

THE textbook convention now in session is of great public importance. The changing of books to be used in all the district schools of the Territory is no small affair. It is fraught with consequences that are financial as well as educational. It is conceded that once in five years is often enough to make such a revolution as is now contemplated. It will affect the pockets of the parents and the studies of the children. No change ought to be made for the mere sake of change. Books that are abreast of the times and suitable for the purpose, ought not to be discarded because the limit of the time has been reached during which the law forbids a change.

If any of the text books used in the schools are really inferior and will not bear comparison with later productions, of course they should not be retained because of the general dislike to a new departure. We want the best, and we do not want a poor article because we have become accustomed to its use.

We hope the gentlemen who are engaged in the work of comparison and selection of text books will be thoroughly unbiased, and will use their judgment with sole reference to the public welfare. The pleadings of agents should not be permitted to prejudice any one in favor of or against any series presented in competition. The tricks and methods of some of these experienced advocates of certain book firms are pretty well known throughout the country, and the influence they bring to bear upon Legislatures and other public bodies is appreciated where understood.

Because some efforts to push to the front books that their publishers desire adopted have been earlier than others, they should not, simply on that account, obtain favor. All offers should be fairly considered, all series at hand duly examined, and merit should be the paramount recommendation, coupled with reasonable terms as an auxiliary claim to a choice.

We have no axe to grind for any book or any house. We want the best books at the fairest prices and easiest terms, and speak simply in behalf of the cause of education and the parents who will have to furnish the money to buy the books which will be selected for their children. The members of the convention must be careful not to be swayed by any other than these considerations, and should remember that their present acts will be pondered upon by the public in the future.

Since the foregoing was in type we have learned, as will be observed by a report of the proceedings of the convention to-day, that a change has been made in the readers and spellers. It is of a nature that does not impose a financial hardship on the parents of school children, and it is to be presumed that the judgment of the convention is otherwise profitable and sound.

### A SENSIBLE LAND RULING.

THE rulings of the Department of the Interior on land questions are almost as varied and contradictory as the decisions of Utah Courts in regard to the one offense, created by the Edmunds Act, which has abnormally excited the prosecuting and judicial authorities here. But there is this difference. The conflicting rulings on land questions have been made by different officials, while the contradictory decisions in our courts have frequently been delivered by the same person.

Under the policy of Secretary Teller, married women in given conditions, were allowed to take up and enter desert land. But the present policy of the Department forbids such entries. The change has created considerable confusion. Women who took up desert land under the former ruling have been compelled to abandon their claims under the new policy.

But a case has recently been adjudicated in Idaho which has settled this point in a sensible manner. Lucy Jacobson entered a tract of desert land under the Teller ruling, and expended considerable means in the reclamation and improvement of the land. But when she came to offer her final proofs at the land office in Boise they were peremptorily rejected. Mrs. Jacobson was not to be driven from her possession in this way. She appealed to the Commissioner, and after the matter was duly considered, she was permitted to make final proof and payment for the land and become entitled to a patent.

The Commissioner's decision recognizes the fact that the original entry was made under the former ruling which was valid until it was annulled. And having acted in good faith in her improvement of the land, she could not be prevented from making her final proof and obtaining title.

This is good sense and it looks like good law, and the decision will be a precedent to govern all classes of a similar character. When the Commissioner does a good and sensible thing he ought to receive credit for it. Will those papers that have been particularly severe upon him accord him his due in this matter?

### FREIGHT DISCRIMINATIONS.

WE learn that an effort is being made by leading business men, chiefly non-Mormons, to obtain a better regulation as to freight rates from this city to points in the surrounding Territories. They claim that there is a discrimination against Salt Lake, which works a hardship and interferes materially with shipments from this place to those localities. We are not familiar enough with the facts and figures to enter into the details of this matter, but we see the importance of fair dealing on the part of the railroads, and the benefits that would be derived commercially from reasonable freight rates to points at a distance.

We hope the movement to regulate this matter will receive proper support, and that the railroad authorities who are to be appealed to will see the

justice of the application, and so arrange their policy as to foster, not retard, the commercial development of Utah. This is a natural centre of supply to many points within a large circumference, and we should think it would be as much to the advantage of the railroad companies as to the business men of this city, to encourage enterprise in these directions.

### SENATOR SHERMAN'S ATTITUDE.

SENATOR SHERMAN took on a new inspiration the other day when he heard about the flag episode; it must have seemed to him like the materialization into sparkling water of what had theretofore been only a mirage in the desert and he a thirsty pilgrim. Out of the frail fragments remaining of the civil war of a quarter of a century ago, he has admittedly endeavored to construct a Presidential platform; but while he could command respectful attention everywhere, his flights of oratory and his ponderous rhetoric be received with vociferous acclamations, still people who heard him, Democrats and some Republicans alike, would be apt naturally to say to themselves that the talk was good enough, but the subject had passed away with the generation that was young when it came into existence; that there was scarcely enough left of the too-much worn "bloody shirt" to wad a gun; and that harping on a dead-and-gone issue was so much sound and fary having no significance. The President's hasty order, however—an order issued under the impression that his subordinates who recommended it had given the subject more thorough consideration than he had had time for—to return the old dust-laden, mouldy, moth-eaten emblems to the places where they respectively belonged, infused a spurious and altogether ephemeral life into the decayed figure, and at the phenomenon the shouts of great glee that went up from a few G. A. R. cronies and some dozens of the distinguished Senator's immediate followers was intended to rend the empyrean, but the only rending done was that superfluously inflicted upon the almost invisible garment spoken of. It did not take the President long to look into the cause of his walling and gnashing of teeth that his innocent action provoked, and then finding that, though a very small matter at the most, it would be better for it to originate with Congress, he revoked the order for distribution, so the flags remain in the War Department attic among their familiar cob-webs and dusty rafters, the G. A. R. have quit swearing, the nation is saved once more, and Senator Sherman's stock in trade relapses into its former condition and bulk. That he is an able man and a statesman of marked distinction cannot be gainsaid; but he has an up-hill task in the endeavor to revive dead issues in a country greatly addicted to letting the past bury the past.

Some few Republican papers uphold the Senator's position and favor his Presidential aspirations; but it is significant that a large proportion of them do not take kindly to either, and among the latter are some of the most influential journals in the party. Of course the Democratic papers are against him with a unanimity that would seem to foreshadow a fuller and more united vote next year than three years ago if he should be the nominee. Even the conservative and independent element among them, represented by such papers as the *Chicago Times*, *Atlanta Constitution*, *New York World* and *Charleston News and Courier* would, from present indications, warmly support a Democrat whom they personally detested for the sake of defeating Senator Sherman. The last-named journal is the most pronounced; in a recent issue it says:

"It has pleased Mr. John Sherman, for the purposes of his own, to divide the people of the United States into two parties—Republicans and Confederates. Among the latter are the Northern Democrats, who are declared by Mr. Sherman to be dominated by what he calls 'the Confederate idea.' The Democratic party, he says, in so many words, is 'the left wing of the new Confederate army.' There is no difficulty, of course, in understanding why Mr. Sherman dwells on the name 'Confederate.' He is a politician first, and an American last; a partisan by nature, and a patriot by profession. His political fortunes depend on keeping alive the sectional prejudices which, he fears, will speedily die out if not fanned into flame. 'Confederate,' he thinks, is a good name to conjure with. The times changed, but he is unchanged. They who were once Federals and Confederates are now fellow-citizens—equals in citizenship, equals in rights and opportunities, equals in love of country. The past is merged with the hopes and promises of the future. Only a few sore-eyed mourners recall what every one else is trying to forget or has forgotten. Mr. Sherman is one of these mourners. The Confederacy died twenty-two years ago. He stands by its grave and with an exceeding loud and bitter cry, with his face ever toward the White House, cries that it yet lives."

This a caustic criticism, but that it is meant there can be no doubt, and that its purport is fateful to the distinguished Ohioan is almost within the range of present vision.