

that by the time the negotiations are drawing to an end, Germany will have spent so large sums on fortifications and for other purposes in the occupied region that China will not be able to pay the indemnity by any other way than by surrendering the territory.

But this is not all. The indications are that Germany's advance on China is only the first part of a concerted plan by European powers to rob the Chinese. Emperor William's government claims that compensation is due the country for the part it took in securing peace between China and Japan, and this view is said to have been sustained at St. Petersburg. If that is the case, it is easy to see that Russia, too, intends to obtain territory for services rendered during that war, and if the various countries are to be paid for doing nothing, while Japan was doing the fighting, France is evidently entitled to no small proportion of the booty. Europe cannot very well undertake to be champion of honesty among the inhabitants of the world's continents. It would be acting in the double capacity of thief and judge simultaneously.

The Cuban condition is deplorable in the extreme. Not only is the island in many parts rendered a vast ruin, darkened by the shadow of the grim angel of death, but the people are utterly demoralized. It is believed that liberty would result in a race war worse than the present campaign. But the blame for this condition must be born by the country of which Cuba has been and is a colony. Even Spain's friends admit that Spanish rule has precipitated this cruel rebellion, and all talk of holding the United States responsible, morally or otherwise, is so much nonsense.

AS TO HAWAII.

Salt Lake City was visited yesterday, Dec. 2, by a delegation of Hawaiians on their way to Washington, where they go to plead with the government against annexation. One of the gentlemen is the president of the Hawaiian patriotic league and another is the leader of a similar society. They believe that from the documents they have they can convince any fair-minded person that the great majority of natives on the Hawaiian islands are opposed to the scheme of turning over the little republic to the United States.

Ex-Senator Dubois, who recently paid a visit to Hawaii in company with Senator Pettigrew, for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiment among the natives as to the question of annexation, is reported as being of the opinion that the whole question should be submitted to the vote of the people. Chinese and Japanese could be excluded from voting. Unless this be done, he believes trouble would follow and it would be necessary to have an army and a navy there to maintain the government. This would certainly not be in accordance with the best interests of the United States.

The ex-senator's description of the prevailing conditions throws new light on the annexation question. A large proportion of the sugar and coffee planters are English, Scotch and German. No American laborers are employed on the plantations, as white men hardly ever are engaged in this kind of work in tropical climates. The whole population consists of 109,000 people, and of these only 3,000 are Americans, while 41,000 are Japanese and Chinese, 5,000 Portuguese and an equal number British and German. Of the 3,000 Americans about half are believed to be opposed to annexation, and nearly all the Hawaiians have signed remonstrances against the scheme. If

these representations are anywhere near actual facts, and if a plebiscite be taken, there will clearly be no annexation at the present time.

It is claimed that the President's message to Congress will contain a strong representation of the Hawaiian question and that the ratification of the annexation treaty will be urged. The necessity for making the islands a part of the United States is said to be dwelt on, but when the question is again to be discussed, the fact that the treaty was formed under the impression that it would meet the desires of the majority of the people most interested can hardly be ignored. Representations to that effect were made in this country. It is to be feared that whatever advantages might accrue to both parties from the consummation of the scheme would be offset by the hostility of the islanders for a long time to come.

EDUCATION AND CRIME.

An English cotemporary gives statistics to prove that compulsory education has had a remarkable influence in lessening crime throughout Great Britain. The education act came into force in 1870. Ten years before that the average number of prisoners was 23,119 or 115 per 100,000 of the population. In 1870 it had risen to 128 per 100,000, but since then the decrease has been striking. In 1880 there were only 111 per 100,000; in 1890 it was 68 and in 1895 only 61 on the same number of inhabitants.

William Tallack, of the Howard association, in a letter to the London Times disputes the conclusion drawn from the figures. He believes that the falling off in convictions for crime is due to other causes, and chiefly to the indisposition of magistrates to send young people to prison, who may reform, if they are given a fair chance to do so.

The question involved is an old one: "Does education prevent crime?" There is excellent authority on both sides. But it seems to be an indisputable fact that some of the most notorious criminals, some of the most atrocious villains, have had the advantage of a high grade education. It is not in the ranks of the honest toilers, who are earning their bread in the sweat of their brow from day to day, that thieves and counterfeiters and murderers generally appear.

It would be absurd, however, to assert that ignorance is the soil in which morality best grows, but it would not be more absurd than to say that education is synonymous with morality. All depends on what kind of education is offered. People may study astronomy, mathematics, philology, philosophy, nay even theology and yet remain in a state of moral depravity. It is a profound mystery that knowledge by itself has not sufficient power to influence men's action in the right direction, but it is nevertheless a well attested fact. Even the ancient Chinese philosophers, who taught that man is god by nature, framed the proverb that speaks of only two absolutely good human beings, "one dead and one not yet born," and conscience bears witness that no one really performs his duty in full accordance with his knowledge of right or wrong. Admitting this, it is a self-evident proposition that something more than mere education is needed for the redemption of human beings from those impulses or circumstances that lead them to transgression.

Education is a good thing, but it must flow through morally pure channels, lest the poisonous germs of sin be imparted with it and the result be moral disease. Knowledge alone

did not save the ancient republics of Greece, or Rome, from corruption and dissolution. That lesson is pertinent in our own age.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

This morning's Salt Lake papers, true to a policy which has been more or less characteristic of them for a long time, endeavor to make one James Charles Bowen a martyr to his patriotism and fidelity to convictions. Notice is given to "young Utah" that the peace, prosperity and the position of the State in the Union are at stake, because the gentleman named has been released by the proper authority from certain ecclesiastical duties. There is not the slightest cause for alarm, and "young Utah" is not likely to let anyone scare it into nervousness about the affair.

The story as presented by Mr. Bowen's apologists is that he was submitted to much abuse and finally expelled from his quorum, for no other reason than this, that at the recent election he worked for a certain ticket, but this version of it is denied by others well acquainted with the proceedings. They state that the gentleman at the polls approached several voters addressing them as "brothers" and "sisters," apparently endeavoring to use his position as a Teacher to influence them in favor of his candidates. They also charge that in some cases he snatched tickets out of the hands of voters and when demanded to return them endeavored to substitute his own, as if complying with the demand. Whether these charges were substantiated or not is immaterial for the present, but it is exceedingly clear that if Mr. Bowen's friends and neighbors by his own actions received the impression that he was trying to use his ecclesiastical position for political purposes, and in addition resorted to rather low tactics, the only thing for the Bishop to do was to release him from his duties as an acting Teacher, until such time as the matter could be cleared up. And that was all the Bishop did. An acting Teacher is simply an assistant to the Bishop, called or dismissed by him as circumstances seem to require. If he releases a Teacher from performing the duties of that calling, that is not in any sense punishment, still less an effort to curtail the liberty of the person released. In the case of Mr. Bowen there was no expulsion from a quorum, as stated in the papers. He belongs, we understand, to a quorum of Seventy, and retains his membership there as well as in the Church.

An acting Teacher's duty is to visit the members of the Church and endeavor to help the members in maintaining harmonious, brotherly relations with one another. But in order to do that the Teacher must enjoy the full confidence of those among whom he is laboring. If for some reason, real or fancied, that confidence is shaken, his usefulness as Teacher is gone, and this seems, unfortunately, to have been the case in Mr. Bowen's district, not because he worked for a certain ticket—that was his right which nobody disputes—but because he by many was believed to have done his work in a manner not consistent with the character of a Christian gentleman.

There is, therefore, not the slightest reason for the renewed attacks on the Priesthood of the Church, or the tearful appeal to "young Utah." The flag of the country floats in its unsullied purity in the air, and the institutions of our great Republic remain intact. Still more, the Mormons themselves, in this instance as so many others, have shown that they disapprove of the use