

BREAKERS AHEAD.

A cloud of trouble as big as a man's hand, which grows no smaller day by day, hovers over the eastern horizon. The question which has vexed the nation from the time that Jefferson and Hamilton clashed ideas on nationalism in Washington's cabinet, and which eventuated the civil war, is as much alive now as it ever was, and shows that it is still a factor for mischief. The question is, whether a state has exclusive sovereignty within its own lines—that is, whether those lines represent a wall which must not be scaled by the general government without permission express or implied—or whether they are of local significance and the local authority which they hedge about is subordinate to the parent government; whether, in a word, a state has full autonomy within and of itself or is merely a factor in the make-up of the nation at large.

This has been a costly subject to the people of this country. The determination of one phase of it cost the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of lives and thousands of millions of dollars, added to the destruction of property altogether beyond computation. This would seem to be enough to put all sections of the country at rest through a perfect understanding; yet we find that in all respects it is not at rest, any more than it was at any time before or during the dark days of the rebellion.

The present cause of contention is the determination of the Federal authority, under the operation of Federal laws, and pursuant to Attorney General Miller's instructions on the subject, to take a hand in the election next Tuesday. In New York particularly, where there is always more or less trouble beforehand, a real conflict seems looming up. It is given out that United States deputy marshals are going to take charge of affairs at the polls, exercising the utmost freedom in the matter of going into the booths or polling places; from which all persons except election judges and those who are in the act of voting are excluded by the law of the state. In opposition to this proceeding, Lieutenant Governor Sheehan, who is managing for the Democratic party in the Empire state, has issued an address to his partisans, calling on them to resist encroachments upon the state law, and cites a decision of Judge Brewer, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in defense of his position, that no one, other than those referred to above, had the right to enter booths. Both sides seem determined, and if both persist in their presently avowed purpose a collision would seem to be inevitable.

A similar case comes upon the wires from Dallas county, Alabama, where a United States marshal has appointed deputies to "look after" the election. The chairman of the Democratic county committee at once telegraphed to the chairman of the state committee, asking for instructions; the burden of these was to have the sheriff and his deputies on hand, and wherever a marshal attempts to interfere to arrest him. This causes the United States marshal for that state to defy a sheriff to arrest one of his deputies, and it looks as if here was another chance for a row. There will

be one certainly unless one or the other authority gives way, which at present neither seems inclined to do.

The political atmosphere all around has a equally appearance; but surely the good sense and better judgment of the people will enable them to devise some means of avoiding actual hostilities. We are promised some surprises as the result of the election next Tuesday, but let us sincerely trust that bloodshed will not be one of them!

TO RESTRICT IMMIGRATION.

A Chicago divine recently held forth from his pulpit on the evils of immigration, and as a result he has been "catching it" generally from a portion of the local press. One of these does not confine its strictures to the particular clergyman referred to, but makes common cause against all of them so far as the subject spoken of is concerned, saying also that "ministers have very little judgment concerning the practical affairs of life." While not subscribing to that statement, or concurring in the feeling which prompted it, we can but endorse the argument which is presented in opposition to the reverend gentleman's position on the immigration question. He said among other things that "immigration is the father of nearly every national peril;" which causes his critic to remark that "it is equally true that it is the cause of all our national greatness. It is because we have 80,000,000 of population that we are prosperous and happy at home, and respected abroad. As to the vices which Mr. Bartlett [the minister] says the immigrants bring with them, the remark has no application outside of the great cities. Any man who should travel through the great West and wish all the immigrants he met back in Europe would prove himself a monster and a fool."

It is observed that the restrictions on immigration which the preacher suggests are puerile in the extreme, as he proposes to allow no immigrants to touch our shores until they take the oath of allegiance, and if Roman Catholics they must forswear political allegiance to the Pope as a condition precedent to landing. This is know-nothingism revived and intensified. It was that such tests might be imposed upon and such humiliating exactions had from those seeking the land of freedom from abroad that the more intolerant and inconsiderate element in the country handed themselves together as a political party and actually appeared in the Presidential race two or three consecutive times. Of course it went down and it was fondly hoped that it might never appear again in any form—there being not enough cohesiveness in such principles to enable them to live as an organized body in a land consecrated to the protection and encouragement of the oppressed of all nations. Sporadic cases like that referred to break out now and then, but the indignation which they incite does but break their force and cut off their effect at once.

Our cotemporary says of the proposed restrictions, that any immigrant would cheerfully comply with the requirements spoken of without knowing

or caring what it meant; or, if he wished to evade it, would only have to claim that he did not know yet whether he would settle in this country or not. "Then, after their admission to this country, Mr. Bartlett would allow no one to vote who could not make himself understood in the English language. But it would be a shame to impose on immigrants a condition which, if applied to natives, would disfranchise some of our most successful writers, orators and statesmen, not to say divines." There is the rub; for the sake of gratifying the spitefulness and vindictiveness of a few church political bigots, we cannot afford to shut the gates upon either honest industry or native talent, whether it comes in the form of a transient caller or one who intends to remain upon our soil in life and in death.

UNFORTUNATE HAMBURG.

The city of Hamburg is complaining because of the threatened commercial stagnation which now stares that city in the face as a consequence of the great cholera scare a short time ago. In a private letter from a resident and business man of the German city to a friend in New York, he says that the Hamburgers lost all fear of cholera several weeks since, but they do fear and have been fearing financial ruin and are at a loss as to how this is to be avoided. Having been placed in quarantine by all the civilized powers, they have, as the letter claims, come near sounding the death knell to Hamburg's prosperity. "What shall we do if the boycott continues for any length of time?" the writer says; "we shall simply be wiped out; our workmen and middle classes will starve and only the very rich may survive!"

An exchange, noting the above, says very truly that Hamburg's case is a hard one, and should excite widespread sympathy. It is much to be hoped, too, that she will speedily recover from her prostration, and be as prosperous as ever before. But she cannot blame the conduct of the outside world during the awful epidemic that brought her so low. She had not kept her premises in a sanitary condition, and when the plague came she did not take the prompt measures for its suppression and for the protection of the cities having commercial dealings with her that she should have taken. She has been taught a stern lesson, and should now be wise enough to do all in her power to prevent a repetition of her terrible experience of the last three months.

Hamburg is the greatest commercial port on the European continent. She is a free trader throughout, vessels from all nations coming and going at will without let or hindrance. It is situated on the river Elbe, about thirty miles from its mouth, and is connected by rail with all parts of the German empire. It is not regarded as a beautiful city by any means, the streets in the business centers being narrow, dark and dingy, and the houses old-fashioned and badly built. Some of its modern suburbs, however, are well-built and attractive. It has one of the largest theaters in Germany and is somewhat noted for the number and size of its public buildings. Its com-