

six years of expiation for is concerned, is the result of the abolishment referred to.

It is not merely an argument for the use of the class of people spoken of, but is something of a commentary upon the prevailing legal methods of civilized countries as well. When Alfred the Great established the system of placing men's lives, liberties and fortunes in the hands of a dozen of their fellows, he did well for his day and age, and his intent was undoubtedly that of a philanthropic, progressive man; but that he builded wiser or even as wisely as he knew is another question. Of course he realized, as all inventors do, that his work was largely experimental and that its shortcomings and inequalities would be recognized and adjusted after being tested in the crucible of experience. But the system, except in Utah alone we believe, remains exactly as he contrived to put it in operation; in this State the only difference is as to the number, and the reduced panels seem to give quite as good satisfaction as the old-fashioned kind, if not a little more. This gives rise to the question as to whether or not a still greater reduction would be beneficial. In the light of the Michigan case—which is far from being an isolated one—we are tempted to believe that a jury of three persons, educated generally as well as in the law, who are known to be upright, unbiased and steadfast, humane without being weak, and firm without being stubborn, would be more likely to give the details of a given case the careful consideration which the nature of the subject demands and render a judgment in accordance with its merits and demerits as measured by the facts and controlled by the law, than would twelve men or any other number taken at random from the body of the public. Certain it is that reform of some kind is a palpable need when a person's liberty can be taken away for years, his life preserved only by a recent change in the statutes, and all the while he be entirely guiltless of the charge upon which the punishment was based.

UNCERTAINTY REIGNS.

There is at present evident depression among the statesmen on the other side of the Atlantic. The nations are experiencing a period of unrest. They are cross and jealous of each other and consequently easily offended. When individuals get dissatisfied with their condition and become actuated with a desire to obtain wealth speedily without actual labor, they are likely to venture on various schemes for this purpose. As they watch the ebb and flow of their chances or the success of a few and the failure of others, they become nervous and irritable, now borne upward on the wings of hope and then thrown downward toward the pit of disappointment. Everything is out of joint. They easily take and give offense. This seems to be the condition of the nations, who find the development of their natural resources too slow for their ambition and consequently look around everywhere for an opportunity

of getting the advantage of others. The game is being played at the sacrifice of national happiness and peace.

So far, the equilibrium has been maintained, but so delicate is the adjustment that the balance may be upset by the slightest unforeseen provocation. Only recently, a few words wired by the German ruler to the president of an insignificant African republic was enough to cause the preparation for service of a formidable British squadron. A small Italian force is defeated in the unknown regions of the upper Nile, and the matter is looked upon as a continental calamity. It changed, as by magic, the political complexion of Europe. This uncertainty as to the future, and the certain knowledge that in almost anything unforeseen that may happen there lurks perhaps a new danger, is the constant source of anxiety. Practical politicians can do no better at present than to refuse to look too far ahead, because none of them seems capable, as did Bismarck in his day, of planning the course of his country for any length of time ahead and guiding with a strong hand the ship in this course.

It is perfectly clear, however, that the greatest efforts will be made to preserve the peace. In Russia, the government naturally wishes that the coronation ceremonies shall take place while all the powers represented enjoy perfect tranquility. In Austria the aged kaiser has but one ambition, that of closing his days in peace. The condition in Italy, where the republican party is gaining ground among the people, does not allow of much of an adventure. England cannot in earnest wish to become involved in an armed contest with any of her mighty rivals. It is certain, therefore, that unless some accident happens, the present condition will continue, but that it is very unsatisfactory even as it is, is felt everywhere. The business interests of the world need a more stable foundation than that at present furnished by the many political fluctuations. The human family needs a higher wisdom than man's.

GETTING OLD SLOWLY.

An attaché of the White House says President Cleveland has become very fond of whistling, and that the touching old song, Silver Threads Among the Gold, is his favorite tune. That seems to be the present tune in Congress, too.—Ex.

The President is now 59 years old, and while he may be getting gray there should be no discouragement in it, for the reason that many men ten years and some even twenty years younger than he have become not only grizzled and gray but quite white-headed. There is a tolerably large contingent when all footed up who are over 100 years old and reasonably vigorous; and the number of those who are older than Mr. Cleveland and as "sound as a dollar" is not only beyond computation by reason of its vastness, but includes more names of eminent men than are found in the class beneath him in years. Man's experience as a rule is unripe and his

judgment immature in some measure before attaining the age of 60, and while his physical powers may and usually do, decline more or less by or before that time, if he has lived even a reasonably regular and tolerably temperate life, he will enjoy a more nearly full-orbed intellectuality and have greater reasoning power by reason of the passage of the three-score years. Men like Bismarck, Gladstone and many nearer home attest the truth of these statements; they are more than octogenarians and are not only as sound in mind and vigorous in expression as at any time during their lives, but are physically well preserved and reasonably strong. The idea which has obtained in some circles that a man who has reached the half century mark is old, grows out of the swiftness of the pace at which those who entertain such idea are living more than anything else and from that standpoint is eminently correct; the more rapid the gait, the sooner the walk is over. An individual who has not lived so fast should be at the zenith of his physical prime between his fiftieth and sixtieth years and of his mental prime for at least twenty years later, with the reasonable hope of being able to celebrate the century mark in his life's career.

At the same time we are glad to learn that the President can and does whistle. While sometimes a source of genuine annoyance to others, there is no doubt that a habitual whistler is in possession of a light heart and an easy conscience. To be an accomplished "performer" on this natural melodian instrument is to be able to drive dull care away and have a sort of companion-ship under almost any circumstances.

LLOYD VS. ELLIOTT.

Judge Street Tuesday decided the councilmanic fight from the Third municipal ward in favor of the former incumbent and later contestant, B. T. Lloyd, unseating the sitting member who had received the appointment by the present City Council, W. M. Elliott. The question of politics did not figure at all, and properly so, although we may say in passing that the judge is of the same political faith as the loser of the fight—a Republican—while Mr. Lloyd is a Democrat.

It was an altogether new point of law that was raised in the case and upon which it was decided. Under the city charter the Council has the power of filling vacancies which occur; a vacancy took place in the previous Council through the death of Joseph M. Watson, and it was filled by the appointment of Mr. Lloyd. Mr. Watson had also been elected to the present Council but had not re-qualified, and the question was—Did the vacancy follow to the present term or expire with the last one? That is, would the term be considered a hold-over from the last or a new one? If the former, the last Council's appointment should prevail, otherwise the new Council's appointee was entitled to the seat. The holding of Judge Street is indicated by his decision, and it seems to be good logic as well as sound law.