

of school buildings cause our citizens to hang their heads in shame. We have fine denominational schools, but we should also have fine public schools; schools that elsewhere are the pride and boast of American parents. Is it more expensive to erect these buildings in Salt Lake than elsewhere? Is our population poorer? There is no spot in America where there is less poverty or distress. The parent then who refuses to be taxed as parents are taxed elsewhere for the education of his children should be made to feel the influence and the weight and the effect of public opinion, and, if necessary, subjected to social ostracism."

The statement embodied in the foregoing is untrue in letter and spirit, and indicates that the maker of it is much more of a success as a hyperbolist than as a practical, truthful secretary of an organization that should embody the elements of business dignity. A person outside of Utah accepting this absurdly incorrect assertion regarding the educational status of Utah would presume that the people were living in a condition of semi-barbarism, and would consequently be repelled from coming here to take up his habitation. As the chief genius of the chamber seems to be to induce new-comers to flock in, Mr. Forhan, in his last kick, seemed to be determined to do what he could to defeat that object. People perusing such an avowal would never get the idea that the proportion of illiteracy is smaller in Utah than in most, if not all, of the territories and quite a number of the states. Neither would they presume for a moment that there were twenty-one public schools, not including the University, in full operation in this city; and that many of the buildings are highly creditable structures, while in Ogden and Provo there are school buildings that would do no discredit to any city in the country.

The genius of the people of Utah, from the earliest days of its settlement in 1847, has been in the direction of education. In the making of new settlements by people who wrested a livelihood from the soil, meeting with difficulties before which whiffets who flippantly pass judgment upon them would have sunk, it has been the rule to erect a school house among the first performances.

In inserting such a manifestly misrepresentative declaration in what should be a mere report of what had been done during the past year by the chamber, with an allusion to what it might legitimately do

in the future, this Mr. Forhan, secretary, has made himself ridiculous, and cast a shade upon the body from which he is about to retire, as well as delivering an unmerited insult to the community at large. People at a distance, being unaware of how much—or, rather, how little—he weighs, his utterances are likely to do as much injury outside the Territory as if he were a heavier man.

### THE COREAN CASE.

IT SEEMS as if all the larger populated and wealthier islands of either ocean which are not independent want to be, and those that are independent fight among themselves or are likely to. The historian of the immediate future will have enough material relating to insular eruptions, brawls and warfares to make more than one volume without being unnecessarily prolix or statistical, and some of it will be "mighty interesting reading," too, if all the plots and counterplots, the intrigues within and without resulting in and growing from armed uprisings are faithfully told.

Decidedly the profoundest sensation created by any of these little dominions or would-be dominions, is that fomented and being sustained in Corea. It should be remembered, however, that Corea proper is not an island but somewhat of a peninsula projecting from the mainland of northeastern China, though a number of insignificant islets adjacent pertain to it. Just now it is determined upon being free from Chinese rule, and China is equally determined that no such freedom shall be obtained, at least not at present.

It is nothing more than what might be expected, the Coreans clamoring for autonomy, and there is more than one reason for it. They have never fully affiliated with the Chinese nor had other intercourse with them than such as a race in quasi subjection renders to those holding them in such control. It has always enjoyed the form of independence, having a King and governmental system of its own; but in reality the guise was very thin, and there was no liberty apart from what the government granted than there is in India or Ireland. This of itself would be sufficient to generate and cause cultivation of a feeling of resistance—a feeling which is only held in abeyance because of the absence of an opportunity, in any case. And then, Corea has had so many different masters, that doubtless she desires to experience the

novelty of getting along without one for a while. A thousand years before the advent of the Savior it was taken forcibly from China by the Tartars; later on the Chinese recaptured it and then the Japanese took possession, after which the Chinese got it back, and so on. Of course each master did not neglect his opportunities in the matter of spoliation on one side and aggrandisement on the other, and this, with other hardships and annoyances incidental to foreign rule has made the peninsula a field ripe for "treasons, stratagems and spoils," these being restrained only by the lack of knowledge for striking an efficient blow at the proper time.

There is a time for everything, and Corea's new light was coming from an unexpected source. Some few years ago, Judge Denny, of Oregon, was appointed United States Consul to China, and while so engaged was recommended by Li Hung Chang, the Viceroy, to the King of Corea as a suitable person for the position of legal and general adviser for himself. An engagement was at once effected, and things ran smoothly for only a short time. Denny had excellent opportunities for discovering to what extent the greater power imposed upon the lesser one, and with what right and for what reason. As the confidential assistant of his subdued majesty, he conceived it his duty to acquaint his patron with the exact status of affairs, and then acted upon his conception. He found a willing listener in the King, and the advice that he declare himself free from Chinese rule, without condition, has been acted upon as far as forbidding and hostile circumstances would permit. China had recently determined to force matters with her recalcitrant province, and a few days ago sent a demand, somewhat in the nature of an ultimatum, to the alleged powers that be in Corea, the terms of which were that the King must immediately abdicate in favor of the Crown Prince, he (the King) being permitted to act as regent; that Corea should declare herself to all the powers as a dependency of China, and that Chinese officers be placed in the chief diplomatic places. The King's prime minister at once wrote to the Viceroy, protesting against such a course, and resigned his position; but Denny did not "weaken." He simply told his majesty in substance that China could not carry out such a programme, and then went to see Li