

creditors a fair opportunity with them. The measure and the motive underlying it should be antagonized even to the extent of carrying the war into what heretofore has been left untouched as the present aggressor's domain.

OSMAN DIGMA.

Osman Digma is a name once familiar to newspaper readers, but it had been almost again forgotten, when, some time ago, it was announced that the bearer thereof intended to join the mahdist forces in Soudan against the Anglo-Egyptian expedition. It is more than likely he will be heard of again, whenever the war in that region breaks out in real earnest.

Originally he was a slave trader, but when the vigilance of the English made that business unprofitable, he went on the regular war path. In 1880 he appeared as the leader of a mahdist force numbering about 20,000 men. He was often defeated by the English and Egyptian troops, but with astonishing rapidity he again organized his scattered soldiers and was ready for a new attack. It was chiefly due to him that the power of the mahdists was extended over the entire Soudan. He is considered a formidable adversary, and although he is now about sixty years old, he is said to be in full possession of his former vigor and energy.

One of his favorite schemes is to circulate false rumors about his plans and movements, and then descend like a cyclone upon his unsuspecting enemies. In former wars, the English troops more than once received what they considered reliable information that he had retreated to some distant place, only to find that he was behind the nearest hill, preparing for another attack. The fanatical hordes of the mahdists led by clever generals like Osman are not easy to conquer in their own country. It will cost much money and many lives.

REVIVAL OF INDUSTRY.

A propos of the starting this week of the railway west from this city is the suggestion from Bradstreet that there seems to be every prospect that the year 1896 will be marked by a tangible increase in the amount of railroad construction to be added to the existing mileage of the United States. For the last two years the effect of hard times upon this branch of industry was very marked; in 1895 less than 1,800 miles of new track was built, and in 1894 the amount was only 1,950 miles; in 1893 the aggregate footed up only 2,600 miles, against over 4,000 miles in 1891 and 1892, respectively. There has been a steady decrease since 1887, when 12,724 miles of new track was built.

Discussing this branch of the general outlook of the country, the Railway Age says this decrease does not mean that the demand for railways is nearly supplied and that construction will continue to decrease, for there is room and will be need for far greater than the entire present mileage of the country. If we had as many miles as Great Britain in our ratio of railway

mileage to square miles of territory, instead of 181,000 we would have a total of nearly 500,000 miles; if all the country were as well supplied as Illinois we would have 522,000 miles, and if Massachusetts were taken as the basis there would be 772,000 miles of lines.

The Age makes a list of roads upon which construction has been commenced or which give promise of early commencement. There are between 30,000 and 40,000 miles uncompleted or projected; and of 205 lines lying in 47 states and territories there is prospect of building this year 10,145 miles. This is pretty well distributed over the entire country, Utah being assigned 55 miles, Nevada 50, Idaho 63, and Arizona 60. It will be seen that even this list does not include all that is in prospect in Utah before this year closes.

It is argued, and with good reason, that this revival in the railroad building industry indicates a great relief from the pressure of hard times which have prevailed. With the revival in that line there must be a parallel advance in other branches; and the situation of Utah is such as to give every assurance that she will be in the front rank of the prosperity attending these encouraging developments.

INGERSOLL IN PURGATORY.

A fantastic idea has occurred to a Brooklyn artist, Mr. Perchase. He has nearly completed a painting representing the place of torment as depicted in the imagination of the people of the middle ages. He has painted it as a vast chasm surrounded by mountains, between the peaks of which stretches a pale sky in contrast to the fiery depths below. Then there are angels armed with bows, whose duty is to drive back the souls in torment that may endeavor to rise from the boiling and seething deep. A soul pierced by an arrow and tumbling back into the gulf represents the inevitable fate of those who attempt to escape. All over the rocks are demons with pitchforks, delighted in the work of their companions below.

So far the idea is as old as the lamentable ignorance to which the antiquated idea of a future life owes its origin. But the artist has endeavored to give his work a realistic air by introducing in it modern figures. He has paid out \$5,000 to people willing to pose as models in this creation of his. The result is that there are seen a society belle, a woman of the street, a typical clubman and others. There is also one figure said to resemble James J. Corbett shaking his fist at empty space, and the picture will be finished with the introduction of Colonel Ingersoll standing at the entrance of this infernal region and surveying the scenes of horror. The painting is valued at \$25,000, and it is said to be the intention of the artist to exhibit it in various places of the country.

The picture possibly is a great piece of art and as such may attract attention, but the entire conception can hardly fail to strike one who reflects on it, as ridiculous in the highest degree. It is in line with a cartoon we have seen somewhere, illustrating the alleged idea of the heaven

of the ancient Anglo-Saxons as a place where an unlimited quantity of beer was consumed. The effect of treating grave subjects in this manner is never commendable. It can do no good, but is certain to do harm. In the minds of some it will shake the foundations for belief in those principles which remain eternally true, notwithstanding all errors that may have been gathered round them in the course of ages.

ILLNESS OF THE CZAROWITZ.

Concerning the real cause of the sickness of the czarowitz, which is feared will end fatally, various rumors have been in circulation. The brother of the czar is at present in Italy with his mother, and an Italian paper offers the latest explanation, which if true, disposes of previous surmises.

The late Emperor Alexander was a great athlete, and he encouraged his sons to engage in manly exercises. The elder son, the present emperor, never indulged much in this kind of play, but Prince George took after his father in this matter, and he and one of the princes of Greece often had a friendly contest. One day, the paper referred to says, the two princes wrestled in the presence of the czar. They rolled over one another in wild confusion for a long while. Finally the Greek prince gave his Russian friend so violent a hit that he fell, dragging his antagonist with him. George struggled to disentangle himself from the iron embrace, and the other put his knee against his chest with the result that a stream of blood filled the mouth of the fallen wrestler. A blood vessel had been burst, and from that day, it is said, the prince has never been well.

It will be remembered that the Greek once saved the present czar from death, when in Tokio a murderous blow was directed against him by a Japanese soldier. Has the same prince who saved a czar for Russia accidentally deprived it of a czarowitz and perhaps of the much talked of glory of the intended coronation festivities? If so, he would twice have exercised an ominous influence upon the destiny of one of the greatest countries on earth.

SENATOR BROWN has presented a bill in the Senate providing for the establishment in Salt Lake City of an assay office and a branch mint. According to a special to the Tribune, the bill provides an appropriation of \$200,000 to carry out its provisions. The officers to be appointed by the President, as contemplated by the bill, will be one superintendent at \$3,000, melter and refiner at \$2,500, assayer at \$2,500, clerks and subordinate workmen to be paid such wages as are customary in such cases. The memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of Salt Lake City in favor of the establishment of the assay office accompanies the bill.

THE SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Monitor credited Representative Cannon of Illinois with the proposition in Congress to have a relief map of the United States at Washington. Now the state papers are rounding up the Monitor man for not knowing that Utah had a Cannon as Senator.