

there would then be an incentive to the public to sacrifice something if need be in patronizing and sustaining the work, but not otherwise. Besides, it should be considered that the Utah market for sales is not a wide or absorbing one and the most of the concern's profits would have to come out of the smaller and lighter products, which the "factory" would have to import bodily just as our merchants now do! Is it not so?

Having nothing but the facts in the case with their logical import to reason from, surely no one will undertake to say that, as a general proposition at least, we have either overstated the case or thrown a false and deceptive light upon it. What we aim at is having everything understood before anything is done.

REVIVAL OF THE MERCHANT MARINE.

A few days ago the people of New York directly, and the people of the rest of the country indirectly, were privileged to enjoy the festivities attendant upon the unfurling of the Stars and Stripes from the mast of a first-class modern steamship. Of course there was a time—when the United States had a mercantile navy whose proportions were at least respectable—that the launching or registering of one American vessel more or less made little difference. But the jubilation attending the naturalization, or conversion, or whatever we may call it, of the City of New York proves that the event nowadays is one worthy of particular and ostentatious notice.

This being the case, it is a pleasure to note that what was done with the New York a week or so ago is about to be done, if indeed at this writing it has not already been done, with another foreign built ship—one of the best afloat—the City of Paris. These two steamers, which are to fly the American flag and perhaps accept an American subsidy, are believed and hoped to be the advance guard of a mighty marine that under wise and generous legislation will carry our ensign bravely on every sea. That these two foreign built vessels are permitted to come into the honors and emoluments that have formerly been reserved to home-built ships is due to a suspension of certain restrictive provisions which, leaving politics out of the question, could only result disastrously to us. Not only have we by law discriminated against the importation of foreign built vessels, but we have also forbidden the entrance of materials indispensable to the construction of ships at home. It is the removal of these restrictions in the case of foreign bottoms that furnishes us the cause for present rejoicings. It is certainly better to have as American the steamships New York and Paris, even though they were built at an English dock, than not to have them at all.

BUSINESS REPORTS.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s *Review of Trade* for the week ending March 4th reports the volume of trade throughout the country as very large and the great

industries as being given full employment. The industrial production has never been surpassed at this season, but the speculative markets are waiting for developments. The business failures throughout the country for the preceding seven days, number, for the United States, 206, and for Canada, 45, or a total of 251, as compared with the totals of 230 last week and 233 the week previous to the last. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 240, representing 208 failures in the United States and 32 in the Dominion of Canada.

THE "NEWS" AND STATEHOOD.

A correspondent asks:

Is the News in favor of Statehood for Utah?

Ob, dear! —

But we can answer again and again if need be, though we should not like to be compelled to keep on doing so until every individual questioner has received a personal response. Here goes for Mr. "Quit":

The News is in favor of statehood for Utah and has said so a great many times; but it does not now believe in a return of the humiliating attitude which the Territory maintained for years, of humbling itself to the verge of servility and begging for what ought to be extended as a matter of right without asking. An entrance into the Union should also be accompanied with a condition of things approaching unanimity on that subject, and we are not altogether sure that the number who now object do not amount to such a figure that to override their wishes and set aside what they claim to be their interests would not only precipitate social discord but be a revolutionary performance. We do not pretend to say that unreasonable opposition should be heeded nor that those who take such a parsimonious view of the subject as to oppose for the mere reason that it would add a few dollars to their taxes ought to be consulted; not at all. But a minority respectable as to numbers and standing must not be ignored, especially when things are moving along quite smoothly. To put it briefly, we are for statehood with honor and dignity so soon as it may come.

CARLISLE'S OPPORTUNITY.

The portfolio of the cabinet held by John G. Carlisle is likely to prove more of a nightmare to him than anything else for a while at least. Things fiscal pertaining to the government being conducted on a gold basis, the amount of that coin available for current purposes is an object of the gravest concern, more particularly in view of the drain to Europe which set in some few weeks ago not being ended yet. There was a cessation just before the late administration retired, otherwise Mr. Carlisle must have found himself without a dollar of free gold in the treasury with which to commence operations; as it is there is less than two millions—a bagatelle compared with the amount which has to be available on short notice at times or be followed by widespread disaster.

In this view of the case the man

who is fortunate enough to pilot the treasury safely through the threatened breakers and bring it to the haven of prosperity and stability, will show himself one of the greatest financiers of this or any other age. It would seem to be Mr. Carlisle's opportunity, and if he is successful, anything which the country has to give, from the Presidency down, may be said to be within his reach. But if he fails—well then he fails, and that is the end of the story. It is due to him to say that the crisis is not of his making, and that it is rather by good luck than good management that it did not precipitate itself on his predecessor. There is no present need, however, to argue that phase of the subject; it is enough for us to know that it exists and that by every thoughtful person it is considered serious in the highest degree. But when in connection with Mr. Carlisle's recognized ability the fact be remembered that on all sides the new official will receive assistance and backing in his trying position, the situation is not without its hopeful features. Everybody knows that the fiscal department of a nation is the vital part of it; and as in the case of individuals, if the vitals are affected a cure must be had without too much delay or a collapse will be the result.

THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT.

The western commonwealths are a good way behind the eastern and older settled parts of the country in the outward manifestations of inward sanctity, whether they experience a less measure of the latter quality than their eastern friends or not. Church fairs and festivals are accordingly of only occasional and lukewarm observance among them, and there be those whose sturdy, practical Christianity permits them to look upon many such occasions as furnishing little else than a display of a superior amount of hypocrisy. Such comments as the following, therefore, upon the modern observance of Lent, which season is now upon us, would not be surprising from a source such as we have mentioned; but they happened in this case to come from a down-eastern authority, the esteemed *Hartford Religious Herald*, and, bold as they are, may be considered to express the strict puritanical view of the question. With all due deference to the sincerity and piety of those who in this matter are sincere and pious, we shall take the liberty of saying that our cotemporary's strictures are correct and its concluding suggestion ingenious if not sound. We quote:

There is no scriptural reason for keeping Lent and it was never kept by the apostolic church. It was the outgrowth of a later time when men began to worship times and seasons. Its observance is purely artificial and its votaries will go into all sorts of excesses one week and observe Lent the next week, and think that this is the way to atone for their sins and do God service. The fact is that what is wrong to do at any time is wrong to do in Lent, and what is right to do at any time is right to do in Lent. It is absurd to imagine that any amusements that are right at other times are wrong in Lent. This is mere super-