

rather than to wipe out their independent government."

The Hawaiian islands are concededly the half-way house of the ocean, and as such are of great importance to all nations having commercial transactions in Pacific waters; these advantages the United States now, as heretofore, possesses. It was probably the fear that our rights in that respect were being jeopardized if not actually slipping away that caused Minister Stevens to act as he did in raising the flag, and probably the ascertainment that such was not the case was what caused Mr. Blount to lower it.

LIEUTENANT TOTTEN'S VIEW.

The fall of the aerolite a few days ago, by which the statue of John Brown was deprived of its left arm and which was spoken of in Saturday's NEWS, gives Lieutenant Totten, the famous interpreter of prophetic writings, an opportunity to again philosophize in his own original way.

In conversation with a reporter he said: "The aerolite that fell from heaven on Saturday afternoon and struck the left arm off the Horace Greeley statue of John Brown was not an accident. The meaning is this: The old order changes. Here endeth the second woe, and behold the third cometh quickly and is of a moreserious nature. The fulfillment of General Washington's third and last vision is now due. In fact the realization has already begun. Horace Greeley was a Democratic standard bearer since the war. John Brown was a Republican aggressor before the war. The monument of the one put up by the other and now struck down by a thunderbolt is a significant topic for reflection, both to the Huguenot of the South and the Puritan of the North. So far as home rule is concerned this land has already lost its left arm. Is there any vitality left in its right?"

ELECTROCUTION CONDEMNED.

When the New York legislature enacted the law providing that capital punishment should be inflicted by means of electricity, it was thought to be a step in the direction of a higher civilization. When the first victim was subjected to the gruesome performance it received something of a backset; death was not instantaneous, and the current had to be reapplied to comply with the terms of the sentence. It was a most sickening spectacle, and it now turns out, or seems to do so, that not even the second current produced death but a kind of anesthesia from which the subject may be revived by a resort to artificial respiration or scientific appliances.

A special to the *Tribune* gives the views of an eminent French scientist on this subject. He claims that electrocution does not kill, the one subjected to it being merely mangled alive through the subsequent examination of the physicians, and that this is in reality what produces death. This makes it appear that the law is not carried out at all, the victim of it being killed by the autopsy. The authority spoken of, M. D'Arsonval, is highly endorsed and if his conclusions

shall be shown to be correct, the barbarous business spoken of should be abandoned. Certainly the state of New York can do no less than order a thorough investigation and do it at once.

THE SERBIAN SITUATION.

Now comes the report that Russia is at the foundation of the Serbian coup d'état by means of which the throne was usurped by a mere stripling of sixteen years. The Russian authorities deny this, however, and probably would do so if it were true, because Russia is not as well prepared for war just now as she doubtless hopes to be next year or after one bountiful harvest. However, the war spirit that occasionally makes the diplomatic crust overspreading Europe bulge up in places, seems to radiate from those Slavonic states, of which Serbia has always been the most troublesome in a general way.

Serbia has an area of 18,855 square miles. The population is about 2,200,000. Most of the people are members of the Greek church and of the Serbian race, though Mohammedanism is the religion of many, the country having been formerly a dependency of Turkey. Belgrade, the capital, has a population of 55,000. The approximate strength of its army on a war footing is about 84,000 men. Serbia is a country of farms, grain and vines being cultivated and many prunes grown. Its trade is mainly with Austria-Hungary. The troubles over the divorce and expulsion of Queen Natalie, mother of King Alexander and wife of the then reigning king, Milan, excited wide attention. The subsequent abdication of King Milan and the succession of his young son and the recent reconciliation of Milan and Natalie are among the interesting features of recent European history. Probably still more interesting events will grow out of them.

WE MUST EDUCATE.

At Easton, Maryland, is a school for negro children and it is quite well attended. Recently an aged and noted member of their race, who was born and reared near there, appeared before them and made an interesting speech. He told them of a negro slave boy, whose father and mother died when he was six years of age. His bed was the dirt floor of a hovel. In cold weather he often crept headforemost into a meal bag, leaving his feet in the ashes of a small fire to keep them warm. Sometimes he satisfied hunger by roasting an ear of corn or eggs, which he had secured by crawling under barns and stables. His sole garment day and night was a tow linen shirt. There were no schools for colored children then, but he learned to read from an old Webster spelling book, and to write from copy set for him on cellar doors by boys and men willing to help him. The name of that boy was Frederick Douglass, who afterward became the greatest man his race has produced in America, and who has served as Presidential elector, United States marshal and diplomat. It was an autobiographical sketch, for the speaker and the boy spoken of were one.

The children spoken to by Douglass had no comprehension of his position in slavery days; only those who experienced such position could form any conception of it. One thing that he said, however, we hope they understood: "So long as you remain in ignorance, so long will you fall to command the respect of your fellow men." Instructive if not glowing and above all, truthful! And what a well-filled page of the world's history does it open to the view!

As a rule, the men who have written their names highest and most indelibly upon life's structure, in our land at least, have been those who had but little learning to begin with or none at all. The story of the nation's career contains hundreds of such chapters, more of course in earlier than in later years. But when in this generation we contemplate the spectacle of a man who rose from one civil station to another until at last he became President of the United States and whose first lessons in reading and writing were given by his wife, we can then and perhaps only then realize how insignificant is the man with an uncultivated mind and to what heights of fame, fortune and honor may he not climb whose draughts at the Pædian spring are deep and constant! Given a thirst for knowledge, a disposition to investigate and analyze and find out, and the possessor thereof will become informed and of consequence whether he ever sees the inside of a school house or not; but it should be remembered that the school house simplifies his work, cuts off many of the difficulties he would otherwise encounter and places him farther ahead in the life-race for knowledge and its attendant advantages.

HADES NOT VICTORIOUS.

Did the gates of hell prevail against the primitive Church? The News has been requested to suggest an answer to this question, concerning which different opinions are said to have been expressed recently by members of the Church.

The Lord told Peter, after this Apostle had made the confession: "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God," that He would build His Church upon this rock, and "the gates of hell [or rather Hades] shall not prevail against it." (Matth. xvi, 18.)

The language employed is highly figurative. Courts of justice and public councils were anciently often held in the gates of cities and much of the safety and happiness of a community at that time depended on the strength of the gates and the wisdom of the judges who sat there. Undoubtedly the Lord alludes to this circumstance. The plain meaning of the figurative expression would then be, that neither the strength nor all the wisdom of the powers of darkness should overcome or gain the victory over the Church, founded on eternal, revealed truth.

The question therefore is, Did the powers of darkness overcome the Church? Did Satan gain the victory? Most decidedly not. Through the persecutions that raged during some of the pagan emperors, millions were slain, and during the succeeding ages