

isfaction to the most restless searcher after the unusual.

It appears that Mr. Boyd was born of foreign parents in a foreign land. When a youth he came to America with his father. The latter allowed the remainder of his days to pass away without renouncing his allegiance to his foreign sovereign; and the son, though certainly aware that his father had not been naturalized, and presumably aware that mere immigration to America did not of itself make a young man an American citizen, was equally neglectful of this duty upon all well-intending newcomers. He probably never expected to be elected Governor of his State, especially when his State happened to be so impregnable to Republican as was Nebraska. Nevertheless, he seems to have conceived the idea that, being a resident when Nebraska was admitted into the Union, he became a full-fledged citizen by that admission. And during all the years since that time he has regularly voted, doubtless held minor offices in the gift of his neighbors, and probably availed himself of the generosity of the Government in its treatment of its citizens under the land laws. Now he finds, when the greatest honor of his life lies at his feet, that the popularity, the costly labor and the superhuman endeavors of himself and friends that brought the prize so near him, all avail nothing. He may not take it, or, having taken it, must give it back again. The court has said it, and the law decides it.

Unquestionably correct as is the ruling of the Nebraska court—though it will not be accepted as final until the National Supreme court has passed upon it—there still remains one feature which every honest hearted American, whatever his politics, will regard as a dangerous misfortune. We refer to the reversal of the popular will as expressed through the ballot box. Had the voters of Nebraska desired Mr. Thayer's continuance in office, or the election of a successor of his political faith, the question of Boyd's citizenship might never have been raised—he would have been defeated and there the matter would have ended. But as between the candidates, they gave their voice unmistakably for Boyd; and that he from any reason has to surrender the office to somebody else whom they did not elect, clearly implies that the will of the majority is overthrown—a departure which though technically justifiable, is fraught with grave danger to the body politic.

It will be remembered that a Utah case, which in the profound wisdom of ex-Governor Murray involved a net

dissimilar question, once came before him in his judicial capacity and was decided out of hand. The contest was for the seat of Delegate to Congress; and the Governor, assuming that the gentleman receiving over 18,000 votes was not a citizen of the United States, gave the certificate of election to the other candidate who received a little more than 1300 votes. That the Governor's conclusion was stupid and his legal knowledge rusty, Congress soon informed him. In the first place the alleged alien was not an alien but a naturalized citizen; and in the second place any disqualification of the majority candidate did not elect the other candidate so overwhelmingly beaten. Besides, the Governor's business was to count the votes and certify accordingly—not to sit as a tribunal and decide questions of law.

It is a matter of some comfort that the Nebraska court ignored the illustrious precedent we mention. Though deciding Mr. Boyd ineligible, they do not dispute his election, and hence refuse to give the office to his defeated competitor. It may fairly be assumed that the next Democratic candidate will not only be a citizen and legally sure of it, but that his party friends will make themselves pretty sure of it too.

AN EMPIRE FOR A TOY.

THE impetuous young Emperor of Germany has much to learn before he acquires the art of reigning over any intelligent portion of the civilized inhabitants of the world is this progressive and iconoclastic nineteenth century. When the haughty and magnificent French potentate laconically declared *L'état—c'est moi*, his remark caused even in that day a shudder among the statesmen who surrounded his throne, and who felt the sure intuition that mankind was preparing to throw off its irksome fetters. Later events in the French nation have shown how weak is the arm of autocratic power; and the epigram we quote is today remembered chiefly because the imperious assumption it asserts is so ridiculous in the light of modern intelligence and human rights.

But the youthful Kaiser likes its spirit, whether or no. "I and my army," is the way he puts it; "one alone is master in this country, and it is I." The change in the language is immaterial, the purport is the same. The bumptious descendant of a line of kings has read history poorly. He feels but imperfectly the swelling pulse of forty millions of thinking men. He realizes but slightly that though arrayed in all the gorgeous paraphernalia of his rank and with his army at

his back, he still walks upon a shaking crust beneath which discontent and revolution are seething. His aged grandfather learned this in his old age; his father knew it when for a few short weeks he occupied the throne; William II. may be slower to heed the warning signs, but the longer he lives the more susceptible to them will he become.

A HOUSE DIVIDED.

THERE seems to be a kind of seismic disturbance going on in many of the old established religions. Only a day since we heard of an innovation to be introduced into the Roman church, which, if carried out, will make this nation a subsidiary province of a few European powers. Then there is that very aristocratic and very dignified church, the Episcopal, all torn up, and divided into a number of factions, with the monk Ignatius as leader of one, and Heber Newton as leader of the other.

Presbyterianism is also wrestling with a heretic. Dr. Briggs is denounced as anti-Christ. His case is now considered more important than the question of revision of the Westminster Confession, which is to be considered in the coming general assembly.

Dr. Briggs is supported by a strong following. His teaching in regard to final salvation is the same as that taught by Universalists, while his doctrine of progressive sanctification in the middle state is nothing more or less than the purgatory of the Roman Catholics. He endorses Heber Newton's views on the Scriptures, and these views place the Bible and Robinson Crusoe on a par.

It is said that a majority of the directors of the Union Theological Seminary will sustain Briggs. If so Presbyterianism has a triangular fight of a unique character on its hands. It will have to wrestle with Romanism, Universalism and Ingersollism, or else form itself into a tripartite body and swallow the whole three.

CHILIAN RAPID ADVANCEMENT.

THE republic of Chili in South America has come into unusual prominence during the past few days, owing to those little incidents which occurred on the Pacific coast. Several United States war ships are now steaming towards Chilian waters, and the possibility of this country becoming entangled in the domestic affairs of Chili is not by any means improbable. That unfortunate country is torn by intestine strife of a brutal, barbarous, inhuman character. For nearly a year the dispatches from there relating to the