

states that one Telemachus boldly entered the arena to stop a fight, but the spectators stoned him. The emperor Theodoric in the sixth century of our era, finally, abolished the barbarous exhibitions.

A question which confronts this country now is, When will the American people be sufficiently Christianized to abolish the brutal prize fights that are a blot upon our civilization? They constitute one of the lowest relics of barbarism. The fact that they are intensely popular and made occasions of absorbing public interest indicates that in some respects we are not far removed from the condition of the people of the third and fourth centuries of the Christian era. Instead of throwing off the barbarism exhibited by them, we simply manifest the same instincts in a modified degree.

MILITIA MEN DISCHARGED.

In the State of New York a new trouble has arisen out of the recent railroad strike in Buffalo. Several regiments of militia were called to perform duty at the scene of the trouble. The men composing those regiments were taken from their duties as clerks, merchants, warehousemen, etc. After the strike was settled, and the regiments disbanded, several members were denied their former situations. Two of the soldiers were employees of the Union Phonograph Company, of New York. On presenting themselves for employment after their return from Buffalo, they were told that their places were filled. In the case of these two men the railroad officials gave them employment, but there are a dozen others who have forfeited their positions. One employer said that he would not take any man back who went from his work to protect property for the State. "Let the State find its own protectors, or procure employment for its soldiers."

A development of this kind forebodes a new obstruction to the effectiveness of a militia corps.

NEWSPAPERS IN PERSIA.

According to a Swedish paper published in Chicago, newspapers and magazines in Persia date their origin from the visit of the Shah to Europe. In the journal, which this "king of kings"—as the Shah is called in his own kingdom—recently has published, he relates that he noticed a Parisian cabman with great interest perusing a daily paper. This made him reflect on the power of the press, and he forthwith ordered the grand vizier, who accompanied him, to direct his attention to this matter, as soon as they should again reach Teheran. The result was, that a press department was added to the cabinet, under the direction of Mohamed-ed-Dovlet, who is celebrated in his native country for a work on history and geography of which he is the author. He has been supported by Europeans, particularly French, and educated Persians, and now the country has about a dozen newspapers and magazines.

The principal of these is the organ

of the government *Ivan*, which is entirely devoted to the internal affairs of the country. The correspondents of the papers are officials of the mail and telegraph service. All their contributions commence with the following stereotyped phrase: "Thanks to the governor (here follow his name and the name of his province), we are loyal to him. The people and all the world are at peace and pray for your majesty."

Next to this paper in influence are the three political and literary journals *Ha'a*, *Terhenk* and *Teheran*. Two of these are published in Teheran and the third in Ispahan. Their political columns are confined to brief accounts of European news, and their literary departments consist chiefly of translations of philosophical and historical works of western literature.

An illustrated paper called *Sheref* is published in Teheran, but its illustrations are only photographic pictures of Persian governors and prominent European statesmen.

A religious paper, *Zoot-Shams* is published in the modern Syrian tongue, by Protestant missionaries in Orumia.

The most widely circulated papers are *Ahtar* and *Ramees*. The editor of the first of these is greatly esteemed among the Mohammedans because he has received western education and is thoroughly acquainted with oriental customs. He represents what is known as Pan-Islamism.

The second of these journals advocates the religious and political regeneration of Persia by return to the original Islam.

THE INTERNATIONAL SILVER CONFERENCE.

THE extreme silver men will be likely to find little comfort this year. Neither of the Presidential candidates with any chance of election favors their views and the country is not ready to adopt them. The International Conference from which so much is expected does not promise to put out to the extent desired, although reports show that silver has obtained a large number of aggressive advocates in Europe and many financiers in England are anxious for a bi-metallic adjustment.

President Harrison seems to entertain sanguine hopes that the conference will greatly advance the cause of silver. The hope is based on the supposition that European countries are ready for the change. Transatlantic developments afford no such assurance. Austria is now entering on a gold standard currency. The banks of England, France and Germany are strengthening their gold reserves. Even in British India public opinion there is directed towards the closing of the mints to the free coinage of silver. In Holland's East India possessions the government has already closed its mints to free silver coinage, and it is said with satisfactory results.

The Indian Currency Association, a body representing the mercantile interests of British India, proposes that the government shall not only stop free silver coinage, but sell rupees only in exchange for gold at a fixed ratio of value. The course it is hoped would

discourage the influx of silver to India and encourage that of gold. In summing up the situation, *Bradstreet's*, no mean authority, says: "If the tone of the foreign press, and particularly the financial part of it, be accepted as correctly representing the opinion of those who will decide the action of the International Monetary Conference, nothing of a tangible nature need be expected from that gathering."

Europeans are always ready to enter into conferences of this kind provided they are held in European capitals. The 1878 conference in Paris resulted in no change in favor of silver. On the contrary, the prevailing sentiment seemed to emphasize the superiority of the gold standard. There is some probability that the pending conference will be postponed until after the election, owing to the cholera alarm. Berlin was fixed on as the place of holding it, and it was expected that it would come off during the current month or early in October. Berlin is now scourged with the epidemic, so are Paris and Antwerp. London is not considered absolutely safe, and the supposition is that in consequence of this and other hindrances nothing definite will be done with silver this fall.

ELECTION OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

THE following communication has been received from a town in northern Utah:

Editor Semi-Weekly News:

Dear Sir—I notice in your issue of September 2nd an opinion as to when the county school superintendents will be elected. There appears to be a conflict in the law as to the election of school trustees. Please give us your opinion on the subject. A SUBSCRIBER.

The general election of March 10, 1892, provides for an election of city, town, village and school district officers who are by law made elective, on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1892, who are to enter upon their duties on the first day of January, 1893, and continue in office until January 1, 1894. Also for an election of similar officers in 1893, who are to enter upon their offices on January 1st, 1894 and continue in office for two years.

The school law of the same date, in section 30 provides specially for the election of three school trustees in each school district of the Territory on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1892, to serve for one year, and for another election in 1893, the trustees then elected to serve for two years.

So far there is no appearance of conflict in the law. In section 147 of the school law it is provided that the terms of the school trustees now in office, (except in cities of the first and second class) which would expire under the old law in 1891 or 1892, shall continue until the full terms of office for which they were elected have expired. In each case it is provided, of course, that incumbents shall hold until their successors are elected and qualified. If there is any apparent conflict between this and the other sections cited it is, in our opinion, not real.

If there are school trustees now in office whose terms should expire during any time in 1892, they will con-