

the English trade in these countries; and if a contest for extended trade again should ensue, the European powers would not remain passive spectators. Only a united Europe can grapple with the threatening danger.

The views here reflected are spreading on the other side. Stated in a few words they are simply this, that if the markets of the world are not thought to be sufficient for the necessities of all the nations, a war of extermination will be resorted to, and the weakest will perish. It is the rule that has ever obtained among barbarians, and the one that governs the highway robber and assassin. But for all that, the United States can do no better than take the situation as it is and be prepared for what may come. And the best preparation would seem to be the establishment of American independence in all matters relating to internal and external questions, fortified by unity and righteousness. United America means a good deal more than united Europe, for the latter would be at best a compact between the masters of slaves. Besides, Europe may before long have problems to solve more serious than those pointed out in the article of the *Nachrichten*.

NO FALTERING WITH OUTLAWS.

Whenever the laws of any state in this Union, or of the United States itself, are such that the chief executive must wait for an overt act to be committed before he can call upon the civil or military arm of the commonwealth to preserve property and restore order, the said state or the nation is in a condition to invite anarchy and trouble of the most serious kind. A chief executive who is made aware of preparations for violence and lawlessness—who knows, in fact, of the existence of a condition bordering on rebellion—and who still waits for actual violence to be committed before striking the offending element with all the force under his command, is too pusillanimous and too time-serving to be the representative and guardian of the liberties of a free people. Any reputable element in any community, which is aware that such lawlessness is impending, and yet lacks either the forethought or the courage to give the information to the chief executive and back him up in the exercise of his lawful authority, would deserve, if it could be made the only sufferer, all the loss and injury that its own negligence and timidity had paltered with.

These remarks are prompted by a consideration of the dreadful events that have occurred at Leadville, Colorado, within the past three days. As far as can be learned from the best authorities, the people of that town have known for weeks that trouble of the most alarming kind was brewing. The governor of the state was informed of the situation from hearsay, and while he had every reason to depend upon the accuracy of his information, he was still left without the outspoken and courageous moral support of the town and county affected, and without their emphatic demand for his aid in putting down the belligerents. Matters were allowed to

run their course, and the law-breakers were permitted to complete their plans and accomplish their work, all because the law-abiding element among the townspeople were either afraid or too indifferent to demand the restoration of the peace, and because the governor, with a reluctance that can only be condemned, deferred action until the evil work had begun. He is most severely to be blamed for his patience—to call it by no harsher name—and they are rendered largely undeserving of the sympathy they would otherwise have received, by reason of their criminal slothfulness in neglecting to stamp out the evil before it became dangerous. To talk about vigilance committees now that blood has been shed and thousands of dollars damage done, is to lock the stable door after the horse is stolen. And yet the law-abiding element have an opportunity to render their town and section loyal service. If now that they are warmed up, they will never cease their legal and moral work until the camps of Colorado are rid of the few loud-mouthed, trouble-breeding scoundrels that have wrought this havoc and that will make other trouble as soon as the present disturbance blows over, they will in large measure atone for the evil they have permitted to come upon themselves, and do much to redeem the credit and prestige of their great state.

Meanwhile, state executives near and far may learn a useful lesson in government from an examination of how Governor McIntyre does not do it. Whenever the red band of riot is unlawfully lifted, or even threatened, against person or property, the duty of a governor who understands his business is to smite it off without waiting for it to seize the torch of the incendiary or the weapon of the assassin.

THE PARTING AND COMING GUESTS.

There is no disguising that the news of the order for the removal of the 16th United States Infantry from Fort Douglas was received in this city with much regret. In the nature of things, the transfer could not have been long deferred, for the 16th has been located at this pleasant station for a greater period than is usually allowed under the customs and regulations prevailing in the war department. But assurances that were considered reliable recently came to the effect that no removal was contemplated this year; and both officers and civilians interested in the matter had settled down to the conclusion that the coming winter at least would witness a continuance of the friendly associations that have so long existed. This has been suddenly changed by the arrival of dispatches from headquarters, and the gallant regiment will leave within a short time for the posts to which it has been assigned in Idaho and Washington.

It may not be permitted to go, however, without being made aware of the esteem in which it is held and the pain which will be felt by the community at the parting. Its successive commanding officers—Colonel Blunt, who retired a couple of years ago; General Penrose who left the service a few months since and who remains

with us as a valued citizen, and Colonel Theaker, who but recently assumed command but who has already made a most favorable impression by reason of his soldierly attributes and qualities—have been at all times courteous yet dignified and have deserved the popularity which they have won. The officers and ladies of the garrison have all come to be regarded as estimable and intimate friends by the local community. The troops have conducted themselves in an excellent manner in their intercourse with civilians, and are looked upon with a genuine degree of local pride as belonging to one of the best regiments in the service. In passing it may be said that the newly organized National Guard of the State is under many obligations to the 16th, from commanding officer down through all the grades, for aid freely given and timely counsel and courtesy always extended.

In speaking thus of the parting guest, it will not be improper to welcome the coming one. The 24th regiment, which is to relieve the 16th, is spoken of by those who know it as one of the very finest in the army; the troops are colored, but they are all true soldiers, and most of them have seen many years of service. It is confidently predicted that we are all going to be agreeably surprised in the appearance and general character of the new comers. It will be no easy task for any body of officers and men to come up to the high mark set by those who are about to leave us; but we are assured that the Twenty-fourth can do it if anyone can, and that before long every expectation in that respect will be fully realized.

POSSIBILITIES OF A DESERT.

At a time when the nations of the earth stand arrayed against one another in financial and commercial questions, as if the globe were too limited to hold its inhabitants, it may be well to consider that there are vast regions of land yet available for purposes of cultivation and civilization. There is at this time really no more occasion for a life-and-death struggle between nations than there was thousands of years ago, provided new resources be made use of. At present the African continent is being searched from ocean to ocean, and as it becomes better known the probability is strong that it is destined to play a part in the history of the world similar to that of the American continents and for centuries yield new homes and immense wealth to enterprising individuals of the crowded nations of the earth.

The great Sahara, for instance, has generally been considered an immense barren desert, irredeemable for agriculture; but it now appears that that notion is about to be exploded. A French missionary, writing to the *London Daily News*, expresses the opinion that the African desert in the future will be changed into a fruitful territory. He says all the rivers he has crossed there hide a rich subterranean stratum of water on which with