

retard the needed progress towards a higher plane of morality and is to be deplored especially when it comes from teachers of religion.

The safety and progress of any people depends on the sacredness with which the laws are regarded. When the execution of those laws has been entrusted to certain officials, the people must sustain them in the performance of their duty. To act otherwise is to break down one of the safe-guards with which civilization is surrounded. It is anarchy in its nature; it is murder. The continuation of the practice breeds contempt for the law and the executors of the law, and unless the nation some time rises in its majesty and puts a stop to the outrage, the spirit of lawlessness will spread until the hand of everybody may be against every one else, and nothing but might be recognized as right.

The law itself recognizes the exception of revenge taken by an injured party in the case of a *delictum flagrans*, but no excuse can be offered for any other case of killing by private citizens. Lynchings do not stop the crimes; on the contrary they seem to multiply. Horror breeds horror, and crime generates crime. It is time to wake up over the situation and bring some potent influence to bear upon the people, so as to subdue the beast within and make it obedient to the laws of the country and the dictates of an advanced civilization.

TIME TO ACT.

It is time some action was being taken to check the incendiary speech-making at public assemblages of would-be revolutionists whose avowed intention is to overthrow the government. It is in the power of the officers to put an end to treasonable utterances being expressed in the manner they were at the meeting held last night at the corner of West Temple and Third South streets. Treason against the United States consists "in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort," and the effort at the meeting to induce men to arm and proceed to Washington and overthrow the government was a direct step in levying war against the nation, and should be promptly met and severely dealt with. There is no necessity of proceeding against the body of men who are seeking redress from present grievances with no intention to destroy the Republic, but against such of their leaders as are engaged in a scheme of which they openly boast to overthrow the government by revolutionary and violent means, the action should be short, sharp and decisive. Traitors and plotters against the government must be given to understand that there is neither aid, sympathy nor toleration for them here. The people of Utah are loyal American citizens and will do their full share in maintaining the Constitution as becomes patriots; and their peace officers must make up their minds that that kind of a course is expected and demanded at their hands.

The holding of such meetings as the one referred to should receive official attention without further delay. They are not peaceable assem-

blages such as all persons have a right to engage in in this land. They are unlawful, riotous gatherings, seriously disturbing the peace of the community and a menace to the public welfare. Sober people are disquieted and rendered apprehensive by the murderous threats made, for while the latter are in the main directed against the general government, which may be in no immediate danger because the threateners are at a safe distance from Washington, yet there is no knowing when this work of inciting to riot and rebellion will break out into overt acts against prominent and peaceable citizens who are known to be not in sympathy with the lawless element. Already there have been threats in this direction sufficient to cause serious fears. A sworn duty of every peace officer is to prevent the commission of crime either against individuals or the whole; and while peaceful "industrial armies" may proceed unmolested so long as they do not violate the statutes, let it be distinctly understood that lawlessness either in speech or conduct will be sharply and swiftly curtailed.

THE SERVIAN COUP D'ETAT.

The political affairs of Servia, although the country is one of the smallest in Europe, with a population of hardly a million and a half, derive interest from the fact that it always has been involved in the intrigues of the powers that contend for supremacy in southeastern Europe. Lately the youthful king, Alexander, has effected a coup d'etat whereby the people have been deprived of almost every vestige of power and the destiny of the country is given into the hands of the monarch. It is evident that the effect of this will be to facilitate any attempts of either Russia or Austria to direct the policy of the country according to its own interests.

The stroke of a year ago was effected on the advice of the king's patriotic counselors. By some crooked means the liberal cabinet had obtained a small majority in the Chamber, although it was demonstrated that their opponents had cast a majority of votes. The people protested against the annulment of the elections that brought this result about and the king planned the overthrow of his government. On April 13, 1893, he invited the regents and ministers to a dinner at the palace. At the table their resignations were demanded. They refused. But soldiers and police had already quietly taken possession of all the public buildings and the residences of the ministers. They were entrapped and had to yield. The legislature was dissolved and a new cabinet formed.

It seems, however, that the advantage thus gained was only the first step towards the usurpation of all power by the king. On May 21st, this year, Alexander issued a proclamation restoring the constitution of 1869 and abolishing all laws not founded on it. By this autocratic measure the king assumes the right to appoint one-third of the members of the Chamber of Deputies. The secret ballot system is done away with; the liberty of the

press, the right to hold public assemblies and the forming of secret societies are abrogated. People belonging to the radical party of politicians have been ordered disarmed and their leaders forced to flee the country.

Such is the nature of the political change now effected in the little principality on the Balkan. Ex-King Milan, the present ruler's father, is apparently the chief adviser of the leading factor, but it is thought, with or without sufficient reason, that Russia is behind the scenes pulling the strings on which the movements of the marionettes depend. In any case, the dissatisfaction of the people is likely to lead to disorders, and these will give the king another excuse for cutting off what little liberty is left and inaugurating a rule of true mediæval despotism. Then a reason will be supplied some of the surrounding powers to step in and save the people, just as Poland once was "saved" by her mighty neighbors.

A TYPICAL PHARISEE.

A person signing himself "Beulah Citizen" writes to the Camden (South Carolina) *Journal*, under date of April 28, lamenting that he seldom sees anything in the papers from his section (the Beulah neighborhood), the reason being, he presumes, that "we are such a quiet and peaceable set of people." Thereupon he proceeds to get himself and his idiosyncrasy into print, by threatening "warm receptions" and "something that is not agreeable," unless certain "well-dressed people" whom he calls "tramps in disguise," but who call themselves Mormon preachers, decide to get out of his midst and move on to "some more congenial clime." In the immensity of his wisdom and the puffiness of his head, this "Beulah citizen" thinks "we have enough religious creeds in our midst now; the religious denominations we have among us already are good enough for anybody;" and he learns with intense pain that "some people have been taking them [the Mormon preachers] in and feeding them." "Away with such stuff for me and mine!" he shrieks; "and if any of those fellows come fooling around my premises with their new-fangled ideas, I propose to give them a warm reception, and one they will not soon forget."

The Beulah neighborhood in South Carolina is not very thickly inhabited, we are happy to believe, by quiet and peaceable people of the stripe of this self-advertised bigot. In every age and in all countries there have been Pharisees and hypocrites, narrow and bitter, cruel-hearted and small-souled; and yet the spirit of such men has not always prevailed, nor have they been able to stop the progress of that liberality and tolerance which considers that matters of conscience and belief between man and his Maker are not to be directed by other people's whims or to be stamped out because of unpopularity. If the *Journal's* correspondent is not the belated incarnation of a spirit that would have been at home and flourishing in the dark ages, he is at least very backward in learning the rudiments of Americanism. It is to be regretted that he did not give his real