

own responsibility, where the proper line between Venezuelan and British possessions is, and maintain that line, let the consequences be what they may.

This is carrying the Monroe doctrine to its full proper limit; and in harmony with the national sentiment, Congress may be expected to act promptly in accord with the President's advice. But far and above the bearing of President Cleveland's action on the Venezuelan dispute, is its portent as to the Alaskan boundary question which has arisen. If Great Britain cannot rob Venezuela of territory without conquering the United States, she is not going to get a slice of Alaska on easier terms. Now is a splendid opportunity for the British lion to back down if he would not fare worse. There is, however, one feature in the present position for which this country should be grateful to Premier Salisbury for his attitude. He has given this government an opportunity to increase its prestige among all countries, on the lines of Americanism, North and South, and to show that submission to injustice toward the American nations is not a cardinal doctrine of this Republic.

FAURE'S RESIGNATION.

The rumor that the French president has decided to resign his position in March does not seem to accord with the dispatches stating that President Faure, notwithstanding the attacks made upon him by his enemies, is the idol of the French people. But it is, nevertheless, possible that he finds his position so intolerable on account of the ever recurring assaults upon himself and his family that he prefers retreat and peace. It is evident, however, that if every French president is to follow the example set by Casimir-Perier and resign under the fire of personal abuse, France will before long find itself without a chief executive and with the supply of material exhausted.

It is plain enough that the campaign of scandal was inaugurated against Felix Faure for the purpose of forcing him to retire to private life. The first effort was made to injure him through the reputation of his wife. The story was circulated that her father's record was not strictly correct and that the president had sought her hand with full knowledge of the facts. Various versions were circulated in wide circles, but Faure's friends made a statement, and the people found that there was nothing in the attack but the venom of the slanderers. Another effort is therefore to be made to injure the president through the reputation of his son-in-law, and if this also fails, a stroke is to be aimed at his patriotism and an "Inquiry" is to be made as to the share taken by M. Faure in preparing the expedition to Madagascar. The grievance against him in this connection is that he chartered an English vessel because, so his enemies affirm, he had to have a shipowner to serve the interests of his English confederates. This story, too, is said to be without the slightest foundation, for the president is in a position to prove that all French

shipowners refused the freight, which was accepted by the English.

Such are, briefly stated, the methods by which the enemies of the French president are endeavoring to force him down. It is a campaign of disgrace, but entirely to the politicians who are engaged in it, and unless checked may have injurious effects upon the free institutions of the country.

LIQUOR FIGURES.

Commenting upon recent statistics as to the liquor trade, Mr. William E. Curtis, the well-known journalist, writes from Washington to the Chicago Record that Utah is as free from the whisky business as any other state or territory. There are less than 400 saloons, he says, or one to every 520 of the population, according to the last census. But even this ratio he regards as unfair to Utah, because her population has increased rapidly during the last five years, so that the relative number of persons to each saloon would be much larger. By way of comparison it is interesting to note the prosperous condition of the liquor traffic in prohibition Iowa, where something over five thousand persons are engaged in the business as dealers; even Kansas, also prohibition, has more than twenty-five hundred dealers. Kentucky makes no claims in the line of anti-saloon legislation, but enjoys, on the contrary, quite a reputation of her own in the liquor business; yet when it comes to a question of figures, the blue grass state, where the making of whisky is deemed an art and its consumption an accomplishment, actually has over six hundred less dealers than the prohibition state of Iowa.

The statistics tell a story which seem to require a good deal of explanation and which furnishes a fresh illustration that reformers have not yet acquired knowledge enough to make prohibition prohibit. In conclusion, going back to the starting point, we are pained to note that all the praise that Utah gets out of the figures given is that she is no worse than the rest of the states. She ought to be far and away better—prohibition or no prohibition.

AS TO MASQUERADES.

"Inquirer" writes from Monroe, Sevier county, as follows:
To the Editor:

Many very excellent things are said and written touching the happiness and welfare of the rising generation. As winter, with its customary opportunities, is upon us, and the holiday festivities are approaching, the minds of the young of both sexes are already arranging plans for recreation and pleasure. It therefore becomes a question in the minds of parents and all others who have the welfare of children at heart, as to the kind of recreation that would best accomplish the end desired. It cannot be denied that changes, properly made, tend to lighten the cares and break the monotony of human life; and that the character of amusements adopted has much to do in giving tone to the morality of a community.

Nothing that has yet been introduced during the ages past seems to afford the

young people such an amount of pleasure as that of dancing; but even this seems to call for change, and the old time quadrille that afforded so much pleasure fifty years ago has lost many of its charms, the round or contra dance having taken its place. Now even this style of dancing with some is becoming monotonous, and a craving is manifest for what is known among the elite of society as a masquerade, in which the participants assume strange characters.

Now, dear editor, for the benefit of many who will read your answer, will you please state, in plain terms, under what conditions (if any) can masquerades be recommended to a community of Christian people such as Latter-day Saints?

Our correspondent requests an answer "in plain terms" to the question propounded at the end of his letter; and we have no plainer way to reply than to say that we know of no condition, time or circumstances when masquerades can be recommended to a Christian people, such as Latter-day Saints. At some time we may deem it advisable to discuss dancing parties, and the general subject of winter festivities at length; but for the present it will suffice to say that when the desire for amusements becomes so impatient of restraint that it demands the mingling of the public under conditions where the identity of the individual is concealed, as in masquerades, then it has assumed a form of intemperance that certainly is no less dangerous to the morals of a community than is intemperance in any other practice. "There is a time to dance," and there may be such varieties of the exercise as are conducive to the happiness of those engaging therein, and are in no way injurious to good health or morals. But when participants in the dance demand as concomitants thereof unhealthful acts or immoral associations, or a whisky saloon as an adjunct to the dancing pavilion or marquee to add to the morbid sensationalism of the occasion, the desire is for something that a Christian community cannot approve. The young people among the Latter-day Saints should be afforded amusements sufficient in quantity and variety to preclude a reasonable excuse for desiring festivities of an improper character; and if the rule of excluding from all dancing parties individuals whose associations are objectionable from a moral and religious standpoint were enforced as it should be, those who have charge of such affairs would find less difficulty in the way of satisfying the requirements of youthful vivacity than is generally the case at present.

ENGLAND'S ATTITUDE.

The attitude of the English press upon President Cleveland's Venezuelan message will not occasion any surprise or serious concern on this side of the Atlantic. It is a characteristic display of British temper at any suggestion that John Bull has an equal in fighting qualities anywhere on earth. This class of utterances is a style the English press has in arousing the national patriotism to fever heat. Whenever there is an intimation that Britain's dictum or aggressiveness is to be resisted by force of arms, the national press indulges in just such bluster, and,