

minish the water supply, it is always the part of wisdom to make some provision against such things. Not caring for today nor providing for tomorrow may seem to be a very happy way of getting through life, but there is ever a sad break in such a program when the morrow fails to bring the customary necessities.

It looks now very much as if we were to have a fair supply of water, which is the first and foremost guarantee given by nature that the crops will be ample. We have no disposition and cannot afford to hope any other way.

HOW THE HAWAIIANS FEEL.

Senator Frank J. Cannon did an eminently proper, practical and sensible thing when he made an arrangement with Prof. Benjamin Cluff Jr., president of the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, to go to the Hawaiian Islands and make a thorough personal investigation among the natives with a view to ascertaining their sentiments in regard to the annexation of their country to the United States. Prof. Cluff was long a resident of the islands, was personally acquainted with many of the natives, had acquired a knowledge of their traits, customs and history, speaks their language fluently, and was admirably qualified to perform the mission which he undertook at Senator Cannon's instance.

Prof. Cluff's veracity and integrity will hardly be impeached, certainly not among the many citizens of Utah who know him, and it follows that his testimony upon the subject of his mission to Hawaii is of the highest value. As the result of a thorough investigation among the natives of three of the most populous of the islands he reports that fully one-half of the intelligent Hawaiians desire annexation to this country in preference to any other government that could be given them. The other half express a first preference for a restoration of the native monarchy, but their second choice is annexation to the United States. Both halves of the intelligent native population prefer union with this country to a perpetuation of their present government, or absorption by any other nation.

Such is the substance of Prof. Cluff's report as telegraphed from San Francisco, and the "News" is disposed to regard the information obtained and furnished by him upon the subject of annexing the Hawaiian Islands as equal in reliability and comprehensiveness to any that has been laid before Congress; and far superior in these respects to the data, or alleged data, which commonly appears in the newspapers. The result of Prof. Cluff's trip to the mid-ocean republic is to destroy the opposition of Americans to annexation based on the alleged opposition of the Hawaiians to that measure.

ACCIDENT TO BISHOP ELIAS MORRIS.

In company with thousands of people of different creeds and parties, in Utah and adjoining states, the "News" deplores the dreadful accident which befell Bishop Elias Morris of the Fifteenth ward last (Monday) evening, and which for a time threatened to result in his untimely death; and while his condition at the present writing is not free from danger, we in common with a great multitude of his friends, heartily wish that he may have a speedy recovery.

Bishop Elias Morris is a man whom this city, and even the State, cannot spare, for both the city and the State

have far too few such men as he. He is a great and good man, and it would be hard to name another who has done more for the community, in proportion to means and opportunities, than has he. The very circumstances under which he met with the accident, typify the man's whole life; for he was then engaged with members of the Cambrian association, in perfecting arrangements for an Eisteddfod to be given in the Tabernacle in this city during the October conference. There will be deep and general anxiety until his recovery is assured.

THE OUTLOOK ABROAD.

An editorial in the "News" a few days ago gave a kind of tentative foreshadowing of the attitude of certain of the foreign powers in the event of a war between the United States and Spain. In that article it was prefigured that France would be against us because of Spain's immense indebtedness to her; that the quasi alliance between France and Russia would cause the latter not to help us even if it did not help the enemy, and that the queen regent being an Austrian would be the means of swinging the moral if not the actual support of that nation to the Spaniards. This would in turn mean the sympathy if not the support of the other two signatories to the dreibund treaty—Germany and Italy—for Spain, whereby a prefigurement of a possible all-English against an all-Latin-all-Teuton combination was presented.

A dispatch which appears elsewhere in these columns makes it appear that part of the then hypothetical combine has passed beyond the first stages of mere hypothesis and is slowly developing into a contemplated movement. It is stated that the emperor of Austria is busily engaged in moulding the public sentiment of his and the adjoining realms favorably to the royal widow and her offspring, a labor in which he receives the hearty co-operation of that erratic young despot Wilhelm II. A correspondent of the St. Petersburg Novoe Vremya sets this out as a matter of course, and adds to the discomfort which he doubtless hopes his conclusions will create in this country, the comprehensive statement that in the event of war no European power would be likely to sympathize with the United States. "All," he sets out, "would sympathize with Spain, if not actively certainly by categorical protests, against President McKinley's conduct." An astonishing climax is reached in the statement that this is well known at Madrid. If this be true—and who can doubt it, since a newspaper correspondent affirms it?—no wonder the blue-bloods and the canaille, the lawyers and the loafers of Madrid are so saucy and independent.

It is hardly reasonable that anything more than show of assistance without the accompaniment of much of a substantial character would be the result of such a getting together as that spoken of. It would be two incongruous a mass to cohere and act concertedly for any great length of time. Just think of France and Germany, for instance, fighting shoulder to shoulder against a power with which both are on the most peaceable terms possible! And all because of the aggressive and inexcusable tactics of a power which long since passed out at the back door of the third class, is utterly bankrupt, hopelessly involved, and now has no independent rating worth speaking of! Of course, in this life and upon this sphere we should not be surprised at any possible thing; the concert of the crowns is liable to make as many strange bedfellows as our internal political systems do; but France and Germany!—why, the suggestion is

enough to make the first Wilhelm become restive in his tomb.

There should be less surprise at France aiding Spain than at any other nation of Europe doing so. The French are mercurial, quixotic, unstable and easily carried away by any kind of catchy spasm. Their republic is the grossest misnomer in existence, having not the slightest relation to a popular and representative system except in a shifting, uncertain sort of form. England is a republic in fact without the name and is thus very much more likely to lend a sympathetic word or extend a helping hand than any of its neighbors are. At the same time, we of this favored land, desire most particularly to impress it upon friend or foe beyond the sea that we have no quarrel with them and desire none; that we ask no aid except such as may be obtained in a commercial way and paid for; that we are not in the slightest degree afraid of either or all of them, and will take care of ourselves and look out for our interests regardless of what Europe may say or do. We are somewhat divided just now, being Democrats, Republicans, Populists and having some few other classifications. But let us be made to understand that a hostile visitor is approaching our shores, then indeed would it be the case that

"Norman and Saxon and Dane are we,
But all are Dane in welcoming thee."

WAR AND LIFE INSURANCE.

During the prolonged period of profound peace which the United States has been enjoying, the business of life insurance has grown to immense proportions, and many thousands of persons are carrying policies. The possibility of a brush with Spain brings out the interesting fact that most if not all of the men who carry life insurance must either smother their patriotism by fighting shy of the army and navy, or forfeit their policies. It thus transpires that life insurance companies are inimical to patriotism in time of augmenting the nation's fighting forces; but it ought to be added that they exert a corresponding influence in suppressing the too exuberant jingo.

Seriously, if the United States were actually to become involved in war, this question of life insurance would be a serious problem. It would tend to deprive the country of the services of thousands of men who make the very best kind soldiers and officers. In discussing the matter the New York World says:

"The remedy lies with the life insurance companies. Why should they not take their war risk along with the rest of the people? Why should they not accept this added element of risk in the case of every man who shall respond to the country's call as a volunteer? The companies, equally with everybody else, are vitally interested in the national defense. Why should they not in an emergency contribute their share toward that defense by suspending the clauses in their policies which make forfeiture the penalty for volunteering?"

The Chicago Dispatch states that some companies in that city say they will pay all of the present outstanding policies, no matter in what manner the holder meets his death, but adds that these companies are extremely careful about issuing any policies while the present state of uncertainty exists. Other Chicago companies have agreed to issue a permit to each policy holder, for which a war premium will be charged and added to the regular yearly premium. The Dispatch quotes W. M. Harris, local manager of the New York Life Insurance company, as follows:

"If every one of our present policy