

the Stream" were played as appropriate to the weather. The band aided, too, in suppressing the stampede which threatened death and destruction towards the close of the convention. Some arc lights became loosened from their attachments and swung down with a rattle and a crash which caused many people to think the roof was falling in. Instantly there was a panic, strong men with their eyes bulging and fear gleaming from their countenances commenced to rush toward aisles and doors. The means of egress were miserable. A crush would have meant death to hundreds. Cooler men jumped upon the chairs and commanded "Sit down!" while others stood firmly in the way of the rushers. The band struck up and the audience cooled down and quiet was soon restored. It was a critical moment and the convention might have closed with a terrible catastrophe.

CHICAGO, June 24th.

### BALFOUR A MAN OF MARK.

MR. BALFOUR, although comparatively young, is now one of the most prominent political publicists of Great Britain. He possesses strong personal points and will, during his life, make himself felt among his countrymen. As is the case with all men who are conspicuously individualized, he makes many enemies, who hate him with intense cordiality. But he also creates hosts of friends who entertain the highest esteem for him and would stand loyally by him under exceptionally trying conditions. He is a man of powerful convictions, which he maintains with admirable pertinacity and courage. Even if he be mistaken in his views and policy, if he be honest in them and their pursuit he is entitled to consideration and respect.

While he occupied the position of chief secretary of Ireland he deemed it necessary to use extraordinary measures of a coercive character to suppress the turbulence which existed in that country. His methods were arbitrary and might at times have been cruel. He operated as many strong men who have been called great have done before him. He saw ahead of him what he deemed an overwhelming object. In seeking to attain it he kept his eyes steadily upon it, and paid but little regard to the propriety of the methods by which it could be accomplished. He was after success, which finally crowned his efforts. He considered the good resulting from the production of a pacific condition greatly overbalanced what constituted the wrongs inflicted by the methods employed in reaching the objective point of his efforts.

Balfour's opponents lost sight of his object because their gaze was fixed more on current connections than upon the outcome of his policy. Many of them also contended that the question of Ireland's being freed from the reign of the blackthorn could be settled by more amiable means, in the form of wholesale concessions by the government. The secretary evidently felt sure that such concessions would not be appreciated if forced from parliament by internal disturbances.

Balfour subsequently took the first

occasion to show that he was not animated by a feeling of animosity toward Ireland and her people. When the famine brought distress into that country he set himself to work formulating and adopting measures of relief. He traveled about in districts where a few months before it would have been unsafe for him to make his appearance. Even then it was deemed injudicious on his part to expose himself to danger of being assassinated. But he is a man of courage as well as determination, and paid no attention to the solicitations of friends upon that point.

Again, not long since he introduced in Parliament a home-rule measure for Ireland. As a matter of course it was not such a proposed enactment as would be satisfactory to the Irish party in the house nor to the followers of Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Balfour is a Conservative, and believes that the emancipation of Ireland from the subordinate situation she has so long occupied ought to be gradual and not radical. But he sought to show that he was not a foe to the welfare of that country, but entertains his own peculiar view in relation to what will best serve her interests. He may be mistaken in his opinions, but he is evidently sincere with regard to them.

The strong popular feelings entertained toward the young Conservative leader were exhibited yesterday, at Sheffield, where he had great difficulty in addressing a large body of the people. The demonstration for and against him was vehement, some of his opponents showing a disposition in the direction of violence. His friends, on the other hand, encouraged him with lusty cheers. In consequence of the turbulence the proceedings were abbreviated.

If we judge Balfour aright, no popular demonstration, however overwhelming, will turn him from the course he outlines in his own mind. He will pursue it to the end, unless he be overpowered by obstacles that cannot be surmounted. There is much in him that even his enemies could afford to admire. But it is not common for the usual run of men to give due credit to those whose opinions and methods are opposed to their own. Yet if such a person as Balfour were to act differently to what he does he would be inconsistent, and consistency is always admirable.

We repeat that the name of Balfour will yet be among the most conspicuous in British affairs of State, unless his career should be cut short by some event not now in sight.

### THE SCHOOL BOOK CONVENTION.

THE convention now being held in this city for the purpose of considering what text books shall be used in the district schools, is a very important assembly. The law wisely provides that there shall be no changes in the text books adopted by this convention for five years, unless otherwise decided by a special convention. The constant changing of the books used in school, entails a very great expense and inconvenience and ought to be restricted. No teacher has a right under the law to make any change from the books adopted by the convention.

However, the science as well as the art of teaching is progressive. New methods are coming into use which very properly supersede the old, because more natural and better adapted to the comprehension of the pupils and more in accord with the advancing thought of the age. Therefore a change of books becomes necessary, that the children of the present may not be kept under the disadvantages of the past, and that each successive generation may have the benefit of former experiences.

We have no doubt that the gentlemen who compose the convention will give this important matter full and unbiased consideration. Men are apt to become wedded to the modes and the books to which they have been long accustomed. On the other hand, some minds are too eager for change. This subject should be treated both in a conservative and a progressive spirit. We want the best books for our children, and the question of expense, though a pressing one, is secondary to that of advancement.

Agents of various book establishments will, no doubt, press their claims with more or less persistency. The teachers must endeavor to keep in view, in the midst of all these efforts, the best interests of the future men and women of this region, the cultivation of whose minds is of momentous importance, for upon that to a large degree will depend the intellectual and moral status of the coming State.

In our opinion, one of the pressing needs of the times is the simplifying of methods of instruction. Take, for instance, the teaching of grammar. How many of us were able in childhood to grasp the meaning of the abstract rules which had to be committed to memory, and how many of us received any real information from them? How few children there are now, even with the advancement that has been made in the methods of teaching it, who can conscientiously say that they like the study of grammar? We hope that in this, as well as in other studies, such text books will be selected as present grammatical principles and promote the use of correct language, in the easiest and most attractive and effective manner. We do not know of any textbook in present use here that entirely meets the demand in this important particular.

The convention has it in its power to lay the foundation for an educational work that will bear an edifice which shall be the admiration of all, and upon which successive and loftier departments may be built, with nothing or but little to be torn down or patched up. We hope they will do this, and adopt such means to this desirable end as shall insure success to the educational movement now in active progress in this Territory.

An exhibit of bells will be made at the World's Fair by a large manufacturing concern in this country, and the firm is planning to display it in a reproduction of the Tzar Kolokol (king of bells), the famous broken bell of Moscow, which is 22 feet in diameter and 21 feet 3 inches high, weighs 443,772 pounds, and is used as a chapel.