

the basis laid at a time when ancient Israel was led by the strong arm of Jehovah to the land of promise. The exodus of the Ottomans from Europe may be regarded as the beginning of the restoration of the equilibrium which was disturbed by their invasion and for which the artificial European balance of power always has been a poor substitute. The Holy Land will again assume its importance in the new grouping of family of nations, and thereby a foundation will be laid for such an arrangement of political affairs as will make perpetual peace, a true Millennium, possible. No wonder, then, if eastern affairs are watched with absorbing interest by all who believe in a glorious future for the human race.

### NO MORE PUGILISM.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the view of Corbett, that prize-fighting is at an end as far as this country is concerned, is correct. At best it is a brutal exhibition, tending to increase the sum total of brutality in the world and with it the soil in which crimes of various kinds find nourishment. Besides, it serves no useful purpose whatever. We no longer live in an age where physical strength is the dominating influence in the affairs of the world as in the days of knight-errant on land and pirates on sea.

One thing is quite evident from the despatches about the intended Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight: Those two men did not wish to enter upon a contest merely for the sake of ascertaining who is physically the superior of the other, but for the money they could make by their exhibition. It is clear that whatever other consideration may have entered into their negotiations, money was the chief, all others being subordinate. What is there then in such a contest, either from an æsthetic or from a practical point of view, to commend it? That it is as useless—except for the exhibitors who draw the money—as it is ugly is certain; that it is demoralizing in its general effects is more than probable. The authorities of Texas and Arkansas have done a good and commendable work in driving the pugilists from the borders of their states. Now let more attention be paid to the mobs that usurp the power delegated to the judicial and executive authorities of certain states. Let there be a stop put to lynchings as to pugilism, and let the law reign supreme in our great Republic.

### NORWAY'S NEW CABINET.

It looks as if the old difficulties between the Norwegian Storting and the government were about to be renewed on the basis, abandoned, it was thought, years ago, when the late Johan Sverdrup was called to form a liberal cabinet. A few weeks ago, the strife in Norway threatened to result in war with Sweden, but this was averted by the formation of a new cabinet with the express understanding that a policy of reconciliation between the contending parties should

be inaugurated. But the new ministers, according to the Scandinavian press, will hardly be able to carry out this program. The liberals claim that they have been ignored in the formation of the cabinet, and that it is to all intents and purposes conservative. The liberal organ *Dagbladet* says:

Hagerup's cabinet resembles a box with two bottoms. At first it appears as a veritable compromise cabinet. But suddenly, if necessary, the liberals will be thrown out. The second lid is opened and a war-ministry Hagerup leaps into sight.

The first duty of the new cabinet will be to open negotiations with Sweden concerning Norway's position in the union. It is hardly likely that it will succeed in this, since it starts out without the confidence of the influential liberal party. Then, one of the first measures the Storting is likely to adopt is one for the elimination of the Swedish colors from the Norwegian union flag, a measure that the new ministers probably will endeavor to kill with a royal veto. And then the old veto conflict will be brought up again.

For the present the bitter feeling in Norway is somewhat allayed through the formation of a new cabinet, and everybody is anxious to see how it will work, but it is quite clear that it takes but little to fan the flames up again. Norway has entered upon a course of progress in democratic spirit, which cannot be checked. The country is steering towards a republican form of government and is likely to reach the goal.

### THE HUMAN VOICE.

To an inquiry recently made in London as to the greatest distance the human voice can be heard, the interesting reply was, according to Harper's Round Table, that eighteen miles is the longest distance on record at which a man's voice has been heard. This occurred in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, where one man shouting the name Bob at one end, his voice was plainly heard at the other end, which is eighteen miles away. Lieutenant Foster, on Peary's third Arctic expedition, found that he could converse with a man across the harbor of Port Bowen, a distance of 6,696 feet, or about one mile and a quarter; and Sir John Franklin said that he conversed with ease at a distance of more than a mile. Dr. Young records that at Gibraltar the human voice has been heard at a distance of ten miles.

Sound has remarkable force in water. Colladon, by experiments made in the Lake of Geneva, estimated that a bell submerged in the sea might be heard at a distance of more than sixty miles. Franklin says he heard the striking together of two stones in the water half a mile away. Over water or a surface of ice sound is propagated with great clearness and strength. Dr. Hutton relates that on a quiet part of the Thames near Chelsea he could hear a person read distinctly at the distance of 140 feet, while on the land the same could only be heard 76 feet.

Professor Tyndall, while on Mont Blanc, found the report of a pistol shot no louder than the pop of a champagne bottle. Persons in a balloon can hear voices from the earth a long time after they themselves are inaudible to people below.

THE AMERICAN SENTINEL, whose creed, so far as we can understand it, is that there is far too much intolerance and bigotry among the religionists of the day, notably with reference to the compulsory observance of the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, as the Sabbath, has the following comment on what it calls "a tempest in a teapot" in Utah:

It is a strange thing that the evils of priestly domination are so clearly seen in Utah and scarcely discerned at all elsewhere. There is not a state in the Union in which today the churches are not exercising a greater influence in politics than the Mormons can hope to do in Utah; but no alarm is felt, no protest is entered, except in the case of this candidate for Statehood.

A STICKING plaster that is actually absorbed during the healing process, when laid on a wound, is patented in Germany. It consists of the intestines of animals. The muscular coating is divested of both the interior and exterior layers of mucous membrane, and then digested in a pepsin solution until the muscular fibers are half digested. This is then treated with tannin and gallic acid. The result is a tissue which takes the place of the natural skin.

THE BOSTON Herald announces a sermon in its Sunday issue hereafter and takes credit to itself for "a new departure." Our esteemed cotemporary apparently has not been in the habit of reading carefully its cotemporary, the Saturday evening NEWS.

WHATEVER MAY be the returns from Utah, the crop reports from the United States at large show that potatoes are unusually plentiful this year. And yet the hygienists have waited until now to say that the tuber is not very nutritious and is rather indigestible.

It is still an open question as to which is the more deserving of fame—be who seeks the North Pole for notoriety and freezes his nose and toes, or he who jumps from a high bridge and comes up out of the water a corpse.

THE STUMPER who said he hoped he had made himself plain, was somewhat disconcerted when the small boy in the audience shouted out that that was unnecessary, he was plain enough already.

R. S. Robbins, formerly residing in Salinas, Cal., and who at one time was an insurance surveyor and lately had been an insurance solicitor, was found dead Saturday morning at 6:30 o'clock, about two miles from Benito, Cal., on the road between that town and Vallejo. When found he was lying on the beach under a bluff, which rises about twenty feet, the road running close to it. When last seen in the morning Robbins was on the bluff asleep, and in some manner must have rolled off the embankment. He was subject to spells of dizziness and went out early to get relief. It is supposed that he sank down in one of these.