

of this Territory, so that there would be no "freemen" here, no right of the people to elect their local officers, but instead he, as the great "Liberal" Mogul, should appoint them.

He failed. He dropped into deserved obscurity. And in his latest effort to come out of it and figure as a funny man by lampooning Deity, he has failed again, for his sneers are too silly to rank as blasphemy, and his anti-"Mormon" ribaldry too much like mere drivel to provoke anything but pity.

WONDERFUL PROGRESS.

A SUBJECT which receives a great deal of attention from the press everywhere is the phenomenal headway being made in the government and among the people of Japan. The Mikado is about forty years of age, one half of which time he has been an occupant of the throne. He was for at least three-fourths of that period as nearly an autocrat of undisturbed sway as any of the Asiatic monarchs were or are; his lightest will was supreme law, and his fulminations were more sacred to his subjects than was holy writ. And yet of late years a pressure of public opinion has been brought to bear with gradually increasing power, until finally a constitution and system of government second, perhaps, only to those of England, France and Switzerland in all Europe have been prepared, adopted and will be in full force and effect next year.

The elements and principal features of the Japanese constitution have been previously printed in these columns and need not be set out now. Suffice it to say that the Parliament will be as nearly like that of Great Britain as the difference between the respective peoples will permit, and this alone constitutes as great a stride in advance as would be the case with the Empire of Russia if it should become a free, representative republic. The new government severs the last link in the chain of homogeneity which bound China and Japan together and the latter becomes hereafter sympathetically attached to the Christian nations and to civilization at large.

Ten years before the present ruler of Japan ascended the throne, she had practically no vessels and her foreign commerce was comparatively small. It is different now, there being an excellent navy and first-

class dock yards. The internal resources have been developed to a wonderful extent. There are 138 national banks having an aggregate capital of \$44,000,000. Besides having 4500 postal stations, there are telegraph stations in 112 cities and towns involving eight lines of communication and 5,000 miles of wire.

Perhaps it is in the matter of educational facilities that Japan has taken the most decided strides, her kindergarten schools being said to be ahead of those of the United States and therefore of most other countries. This important fact, it is claimed, is attested by the showing made by the Japanese at the Paris Exposition, where they are well represented in all respects. There are 30,000 schools, systematically graded, throughout the empire, and in these are 60,000 teachers who instruct nearly 3,000,000 pupils. Besides these, there are 173 colleges, seventy-eight normal schools, six schools for the higher education of women, and two universities. The law school at Tokio is said to contain more than a thousand students, one half of them, or thereabout, studying in English. There are also thirty-one medical schools, one having nearly a thousand students; and 665 hospitals for patients are scattered throughout the land.

This record puts at defiance anything contained in profane history, as relates to ancient, mediæval or modern times. Not only in the shortness of the time but in the character of the materials out of which it was all done, does the transformation constitute a wonder of our day.

THE OLDEST MAN.

THE statement that a man lives who was born before Napoleon Bonaparte and fought him all the way from Montenotte to Waterloo, will be received by many with broad incredulity. It is like taking us back to a period of the world's history which we are familiar with only through books, legends and relics, and bringing us face to face with a generation long since passed away. Yet such person lives and gives promise of holding out for several years to come. His name is Nagy Ferenez, he is a Hungarian, and was born in 1768, being thus 121 years old. He lives now in Barez, Hungary.

When the great European coalition was formed against France, in

1793, Ferenez enlisted in the Austrian army and served without intermission for the long period of twenty years, being engaged in all the great wars of Napoleon's time, among them the famous fields of Leipzig, Austerlitz, Marengo, Wagram, and lastly Waterloo. His has been a wonderful experience. He has seen the government of France changed a dozen times. It was a kingdom when he first knew it, then a republic, a kingdom again, a directory, an empire, several provisional establishments, a republic under Louis Napoleon, an empire, a war council of safety, and lastly a republic. His own government—Austria—has dwindled considerably in the presence of the nations, and the map of Europe has been changed so often that we doubt if even he would recognize the old one. It is a ripe old age to arrive at, and a great period to pass through. Ferenez is the oldest man in the world, so far as any records go.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

THE question as to the effectiveness of a prohibitory law has been greatly discussed of late years, but never so much before as since Kansas enacted a stringent one and enforced it rigidly and it almost seemed cruelly at times. Senator Ingalls, of that State, President of the United States Senate, has recently contributed a paper on the subject spoken of, to the *Forum*. It is written in his usual trenchant and incisive style and has attracted a great deal of attention, more particularly from the fact that his ground is somewhat in advance of that of Francis Murphy, the great temperance apostle, who holds that prohibition does not prohibit, while the Senator endeavors to show that it does prohibit. Both base their conclusions on accomplished facts and thus make the situation more confusing.

Mr. Ingalls refers, of course, to his own State as an exemplar, Mr. Murphy to Pennsylvania. The former says that Kansas, having abolished the saloon, the open dram shop traffic is of course extinct. "A drunkard is a phenomenon," he affirms, in language which at this distance must sound more parabolic than exact, especially when later on he admits that "absolute drought" does not prevail and "social irrigation" has not entirely disappeared. "It seems incredible," he says, "that among a population of 1,700,000 people, extending from the Mis-