

ignorance, and it is the opinion of the agent that this can best be allayed by attacking its root as aforesaid. Full success to him!

THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

One of the greatest internal improvements of modern times—one fraught with the most vital consequences to two great cities—is what is called the Manchester ship canal, the promoters of which now announce that by the first of next year the waterway will be ready for business. Since the cost of the work has so far exceeded the original estimate—a peculiarity of nearly all large undertakings, by the way—there is slim prospect of the receipts for the first few years approaching a sum insuring a profit upon the outlay. But these new burdens have not fallen so heavily upon the stockholders as might have been expected. The city of Manchester, alert to the prospect of increased trade and the greater profits accruing to her manufacturers and merchants through the completion of the canal, assumed to quite an extent the extra and unforeseen obligations, and believes the venture will prove justifiable from the standpoint of either public or private commercial foresight. A Boston newspaper, commenting upon the subject as set out in an English letter, argues earnestly for the view that the work is one of permanent value; for with the constant and necessary increase in transportation of all kinds, it must in the end prove directly profitable, while no one could afford to wait for the income-earning facilities to develop themselves more readily than the city of Manchester, which has for the last two generations paid a generous toll to Liverpool upon all of its foreign imports and exports. The dock system on the river Mersey at Liverpool has been sustained by contributions of this kind, which have come in from all of the neighboring manufacturing towns and cities. Years ago, shortly after the dock system was established, the profits on these enterprises were so great that the city went out of its surplus funds several large public buildings. This led to a protest in which the city of Manchester led the way, and the point was strongly made that if this method was to be continued, as trade increased, all of the public expense of Liverpool would be borne by those who patronized its dock system. The result of the protest was an agreement that the rate of dockage should be lowered to a point no more than sufficient to pay interest upon the dock expenditures and to provide additional facilities. But with the completion of the ship canal, Liverpool's largest patron will be taken from her, and the building of new docks will probably be held in abeyance for several years to come.

BLOUNT'S RECOMMENDATION.

The recommendation of ex-Minister Blount that the question of annexation of Hawaii to the United States be left to the vote of the people of the islands seems to us to be not only just,

but the only proper procedure that can be had. It may be urged that the majority of the islanders are royalists, and to give them the decision of the question means in advance the restoration of Liliuokalani to the throne. If that be true the present government is a usurpation of power for which there is no justification whatever, and the wisdom, policy and justice of the minister (then commissioner) in hauling down the Stars and Stripes from the Hawaiian government building become so apparent that controversy regarding the action would seem to be barred.

It should be a matter requiring no argument in this country. Those who permit dreams of fertile plantations and visions of a languid, prosperous life, together with some little maudlin sentimentality grossly mis-called patriotism, to obscure our fundamental principles, are the ones who first of all who should be brought to book with a sharp turn. Let them, if the Constitution be too burdensome and complex a document for their immediate comprehension, take up the indictment of Great Britain which is generally known as the Declaration of Independence, and read therein the incontestable and altogether upright doctrine that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; then ask themselves if the descendants of those who gave birth to that principle and put life, fortune and sacred honor into the struggle that it might be maintained, can afford to engage in such an undertaking as compelling another race in a distant land to accept of a condition of things exactly the reverse.

It has been suggested that the islanders are in the main ignorant heathens, ex-cannibals and without comprehension of what popular suffrage amounts to, and that under such circumstances the few who are enlightened and progressive among them would control absolutely, thus maintaining aristocracy in its most objectionable and peonage in its most helpless form; that this being the case it is our duty to come to the rescue whether the blind and unreasoning natives are willing or not. In other words we should force our good offices upon an unwilling people. It will not do, and no amount of sophistry however cleverly constructed can justify it. If we must be so disinterestedly concerned in that people, why not let our interest extend to qualifying them for our improved system of government and go no further at present, especially in view of the fact that just now American rule and American methods would be unappreciated, undesired and therefore most certainly abused? The United States should and will keep a jealous eye upon the insular kingdom and maintain a constant warning to trespassers from afar or near at hand; the people there are, we think, not averse to this and desire to maintain the most cordial relations; but with the exception of the education imparted by precept and example that is as much as we should seek just now.

WE OBSERVE with some surprise that in the high-flying East the despised silver dollar is still considered worth counterfeiting.

OBJECTIONABLE TRACTS.

An aged gentleman is seen round our streets trying to dispose of a set of tracts, purporting to contain explanations of prophetic declarations. The alleged religious subjects of the leaflets and the cheap price are likely to induce a certain class of people to buy them. Their contents are, however, the veriest rubbish, a jumble of sentences without mutual connection, bearing the unmistakable marks of imbecility on the part of the author. There would be no occasion to mention this thing, were it not for the fact that among the paragraphs printed are found sentences penned against the government of the United States, which are of such a nature as to call for the interference of those whose business it is to preserve order in the community. In one of the tracts headed: "Hear, O Hear the Battle Cry of Egan and the War Whoop of Jacob," we are informed that there are two forms of government in the United States. One is the government of God and exists among the Indians; the other is democracy and is the government of the devil, "the centralization of whose power is vested in a Constitution, Congress, President and Supreme Court," all of which is to be destroyed by the judgments of the Almighty. The particular danger in the publication of such nonsense is that possibly insanity may be contagious. Nevertheless, people should be made to understand that any attempt—even an insane one—to disseminate treacherous utterances cannot be tolerated, be the author of them never so crazy.

THE COMMISSION IS FOOLISH.

The experience of the people of Utah with the Utah Commission has been so long and so varied in its character that they have become more or less accustomed to that peculiar body's peculiar recommendations and general eccentricities. Its latest report, a summary of which has already appeared in the News, contains rather less of this sort of thing than its predecessors, and therefore escaped much of the local criticism usually held in reserve for such occasions. But a stranger's eyes see something even in this report that excites his ire. We quote, without further introduction or comment, from the New York Sun of the 2nd of October:

It appears from the report of the Utah Commission to the department of the interior that the old Mormon system of polygamy does not now exist in Utah. The enactments of Congress against it have been effectively enforced by the courts and sustained by the authorities of the Mormon Church. Polygamous marriages are things of the past in the Territory of Utah.

The Utah Commissioners have gone outside of their province in the report they have presented to the government. It was not their business to make the recommendation embodied in this official document, that an amendment to the Federal Constitution be adopted inhibiting polygamy, and empowering Congress "to prescribe the conditions of marriage and divorce, and the manner of authenticating them." These commissioners