

made so easy that really it cannot be worth anybody's while to do without it.

Again:

"What could France teach America?" exclaims Mark Twain. France can teach America all the higher pursuits of life, and there is more artistic feeling and refinement in a street of French workmen than in many avenues inhabited by American millionaires. She can teach her, not perhaps how to work, but how to rest, how to live, how to be happy.

• • • In France a man who was seen tipsy in his club would immediately see his name cancelled from membership. A man who had settled his fortune on his wife to avoid meeting his creditors would be refused admission into any decent society. Many a Frenchman has blown his brains out rather than declare himself a bankrupt.

• • • Now, I could fill a book on America with reminiscences of this sort, adding a few chapters on horses and hooliers, on New York *chronique scandaleuse*, on the tenement houses of the large cities, on the gambling hells of Denver, and the dens of San Francisco, and what not! But I will not do it, Mark.

We give these for what they are worth—and surely they are not without value. Perhaps Max O'Rell deals largely in that form of license commonly accorded to poets but not less generally assumed by professional humorists. Perhaps, further, he deals in this instance not in poetic license at all, but with cold, bare truth. It seems to us the American champion, whoever he shall be, has earnest and sober work on hand. An insulted or a humiliated (as the case may be) nation awaits impatiently his performance.

#### TO THE POLE IN BALLOON.

Notwithstanding the so far insurmountable difficulties encountered in reaching the North pole, efforts will be resumed this year, if possible, to solve the mysteries of that region. This time the discussion turns upon the feasibility of arriving at the goal by means of a balloon.

The Stockholm correspondent of the News writes that the well known aeronaut, Prof. Andree, intends constructing an airship somewhere on Spitzbergen, and, taking advantage of the air currents and perpetual daylight during the summer season, start for the Pole. As it is possible to guide such a conveyance to some extent, the journey would be comparatively free from danger. The explorer would sail about for a month in the Arctic regions, making his observations, and then endeavor to reach Alaska.

Professor Nordenskjöld, the greatest now living authority on Arctic exploration, is said to endorse the plan and to urge on the Academy of Science to furnish the necessary funds. The expenses would amount to something like \$30,000 or \$40,000, considerably less than for instance Nansen's expedition.

The idea of starting for the pole in a balloon is one that has often been mentioned as the only feasible one, but as yet no explorer has tried the experiment. Professor Andree, is a competent aeronaut with much experience in the regions he proposes to explore, and the cordial endorsement of Baron Nordenskjöld, who is no youthful enthusiast in such matters, strengthens

public confidence in the practicability of the undertaking. This year, in contrast to last year, should be favorable to reaching high latitudes, as everything indicates an early summer with whatever advantages the warm season offers. If nothing else could be accomplished, the air navigators might learn something about the fate of Nansen, for whom much anxiety is felt on account of the formerly published rumors of disaster to his vessel.

#### LEGISLATIVE MOBOCRACY.

The closing of a legislative session in a sovereign state in a riot such as occurred at Indianapolis on Monday evening is not a very gratifying spectacle in the Republic. Neither is it very encouraging for the peace and welfare of the nation. It has been said frequently that the people are no better than the representatives they elect; and if those representatives will abandon all sense of dignity and honor, and have recourse to mobocratic tactics to carry out their desires, utterly disregarding constitution and law, what may be expected of their constituents in the event of an appeal to their passions at a critical time?

Indiana has given the worst illustration of a legislative mob that has been presented of late years, but it is by no means alone. During the past few weeks there have been several disorderly demonstrations in state legislatures; and the national Congress itself has furnished a humiliating spectacle in this regard. The tendency in that respect is neither hopeful nor limited, as shown by the occurrences; and as the glory of a nation arises from the dignity, the honor, the self-control, the justice, and the devotion to country rather than to self which characterizes the ruling powers, it may be confidently if sorrowfully anticipated that unless a change comes soon the late perforce must inscribe Ichabod upon our country's annals.

It would not do to judge the nation by sporadic outbursts of anger even among legislators; but the events referred to may not be included in that class. In the main they are the result of deliberate intention to carry out a certain general program, peacefully if interrupted, but yet to carry it out even if the most extreme measures must be resorted to. This was unmistakably the fact in the Indiana incident. Of the general situation it may be said that there has been no time when legislators displayed such belligerency in this country as they do now except in the few years which preceded the great war of the Rebellion. At that time, however, the questions in dispute early resolved themselves into one main issue, the supremacy of the Union or the disruption of the nation. Of necessity patriotism and loyalty were with the former. But the later issues are so divided and subdivided in the interests of sectionalism and party aspiration, that individually, none of them appear to imperil the nation, yet collectively they form a more threatening danger than did that of forty years ago. In the intense eagerness to enforce sectional or class demands there is serious reason to fear that great peril to the nation from these combined forces will result, and that in the crisis thus

brought on the disposition to resort to mobocracy will bring most disastrous consequences.

There are many lessons which should be learned from the present state of affairs in official life. One of the most important is that the people should make public office-holding less attractive than it is today to those who will not bring thereto merited dignity and honor. An effective way to accomplish this would be to make the offices less remunerative. The desire for pelf, for gain, for the emoluments that accompany the position, is the principal incentive of the dishonorable class to get into public positions. If men had to serve for honor more than for money the baser passions would not be brought into play so quickly in official life, because individuals in whom they predominate would seek other channels to gratify the cravings of their appetite.

If Utah would keep out this angry, mobocratic spirit, her fundamental law will not open the door to its chief inciter, the greed of gain. There will be absolutely no encouragement for the hope and aim of the high salaried official, whether that salary comes through a regular stipend, or pickings in fees, hoolie or other form. If Utah would have in office persons who are courteous, calm, and not disposed to mobocratic tendencies, she will not make the desire for feeding at the public crib the inspiring motive of the office-seekers. The force of the lesson may be seen in the history of our country, which portrays that with the gradual augmentation of official emoluments there has been a steady increase of that corruption and tyranny which are gradually aiding the development in official and unofficial life of the mobocratic spirit that has no regard for justice, but would wreck the nation in the gratification of its passion. As a State, Utah should be warned in time and keep clear of the breakers.

#### THE DAY'S SENSATIONS.

The record given in the dispatches of March 12 ought to be suggestive even to the sensation-loving people in this nation. There were graphic accounts of the massacre in New Orleans, the firing on an American mail steamer by a Spanish war vessel, the murderous fight in a Catholic church in Omaha, and the slaughter of prisoners in the custody of officers in Colorado, to say nothing of a long list of sanguinary occurrences of a minor character in comparison with these. Of course all these will be a subject of comment for few hours at the most, but there is behind them a dark shadow. It may not be that the insolent Spaniard acted as he did partially through a national contempt for the United States, which is looked upon by very many in Europe as unable to protect its residents from local lawlessness, much less to defend them effectively abroad; but it must be conceded that the other occurrences referred to would justify the Spanish captain in having such a view of the case. The marshals, the sheriffs, the police, in too many sections of this vast country are becoming a bias and a by-word because of their inefficiency in preserving all classes of