

the flowery kingdom may send some of its surplus of laborers to gather the means of subsistence. Hawaii, owing to its location and other conditions, offers such a place, and Japan cannot without concern see it pass under the control of a strong power. It is a question of obtaining more standing room in a world that is rapidly becoming crowded in many parts.

But is Japan prepared to commence trouble with the United States on that account? Hardly. Japan's fleet is considerable older than our—important fact because warships over ten years old are no longer considered modern. Three of the five armored cruisers in the Japanese navy are said to be practically unfit for duty. There are two big ships built in England and the Chen Yuen which was taken from China, but the latter is inferior to our battleships. The two others are bigger than the Iowa and are considered formidable engines of war, and it is now the intention of the government to procure six more of the same class.

The United States has eleven of this kind of ships on the water or under construction. Of first class cruisers we have five, while Japan has five under construction; of second class cruisers we have thirteen and Japan ten. Of smaller cruisers and gun boats we have twenty-six and nine under construction, while Japan has only seventeen and four under construction.

It is, therefore, apparent that Japan's naval power cannot be compared to that of the United States. A gunpowder argument between the two countries concerning the islands in the Pacific would be a matter of regret, but it is not believed it would last very long.

### TYRANNY OF UNIONS.

It is not long since there was necessity in this city of giving public demonstration to oppressive, violent and unjust expressions of the president of the Western federation of miners, who assumed to be speaking for the labor organization which he represented, and which gave an endorsement of his sentiments by choosing him for another term as its presiding officer. Such expressions as those referred to, coming in words as well as acts, have done much to create a bitter antagonism in the minds of many to labor unions as engines of tyranny whenever the opportunity is afforded for the exercise of power in that manner.

A recent incident at Grass Valley, Cal., is another illustration of the flagrant abuse of power on the part of a trades union. In this case it is a miners' organization. A non-union man who had been requested repeatedly to join the miners' union but who declined to do so, was summarily ejected from the place on Friday night. Several times he has lost employment because he would not affiliate with the union. On the date named he was preparing to go to work for an employer who would not heed the union's request to discharge him. A committee of the miners' union presented themselves and told him Grass Valley no longer desired his presence,

that a carriage was in waiting and members of the union would escort him outside; that they desired no words or trouble, and the best thing for him to do was to pick up his clothing and peacefully depart. He attempted to parley, but, realizing that the members of the union were determined, he was soon in the carriage speeding away, and was left with a warning never to return, under pain of worse treatment. One more non-union man remains in the town, but he also must depart under compulsion.

This act of running a man out of town for no other reason than that given by the Grass Valley miners' union, is a gross violation of personal liberty and an utter disregard of law and constitutional rights. It is nothing less than mobocracy. And as long as trades unions will engage in or countenance such proceedings, so long will they meet with merited antagonism from those who hate tyranny. Sooner or later they must learn to keep within lawful methods in securing their ends.

### CHURCH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

For the first time since the inauguration of a Church educational system among the Latter-day Saints, a general convention of Church school officers and teachers has been called, and met today in the Latter-day Saints' college building. Heretofore the workings of the organization have been conducted by the general board of education for the Church, through Stake boards and officers, and meetings with these an occasion required. The magnitude of the work has become so great, however, that it has been deemed advisable to hold a general convention in this city, at which every Stake and local Church board of education, every Church school faculty, and each Religion Class organization, should be duly represented. The time chosen was during the summer vacation and immediately after the Jubilee celebration, so as most generally to suit the convenience of the educators, of whom there is a goodly attendance. The program for the convention, as outlined in the News last week, covers a broad field of important subjects, the consideration of which no doubt will prove of great benefit to the Church school work, while the public lectures to be given in the evening, to which all interested in the work of training the children are invited, should be of special interest to Church members. The field of this Church school work, in taking children who have passed from the jurisdiction of the State school system and affording them facilities for an advanced education which also includes the moral and religious aspects of life, is of supreme importance in being properly occupied. Doctrinally, the attainment of theological, historical, political and scientific information is a cardinal principle of the faith of the Latter-day Saints. In the early years of settlement here, this information was far from being as easily attained and conveyed as now, but nevertheless a steady educational effort was put forth. Now that the means of acquiring knowledge is becoming more easy of access year by

year, there is increasing room for a work of vast magnitude on the part of teachers actuated by the spirit of the Gospel. The proceedings of this Church school convention, and of others that may follow in this or in other Stakes, should be an important factor in awakening instructors in the school system to a full sense of their responsibility in a calling the ennobling character of which cannot be overestimated.

### A REMINISCENCE.

The facsimile edition of No. 1 of the News, which was sent out with the pioneer edition last week, was the means of reviving many old memories and reproducing before the mental vision some scenes which otherwise would have continued behind the veil of the intervening years. One little item was to the effect that the grand jury had found a true bill against Professor Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman. Although this was nearly half a century ago, there are still many people alive who even at such slight mention experienced once more the unpleasant sensation which that tragedy created wherever newspapers were read, it being the first of what has proved to be a long series of mysterious criminal events which became celebrated in the annals of modern times. The series ends—but certainly has not concluded—with the Goldensuppe murder, and embraced in succession the Morgan disappearance, the Burdett mystery and many more. It is also noteworthy that but a few days before the News publication the New York World had an exhaustive retrospect of the case from beginning to end with numerous illustrations to add to the gruesome effect which the revival of the horror of 1859 produced.

The Webster trial has been of some benefit to the legal department of sociology, which is able to see at this later period what those who conducted the case and the one who commented upon it at that time were unable to comprehend or at least to grasp. The execution of Webster, which took place about nine months after the killing of Parkman, is now looked upon as the result of a giving way of the barriers of law and judgment which are supposed to intercept maddened mankind when in quest of a victim—in other words, a judicial murder. Parkman held a note (and a grudge) against Webster; the former had been largely paid, the latter not. Going into the professor's office on the fateful November day he had abused, maligned, threatened and finally made an assault upon, owing to physical weakness, did not result in damage but all amounting to provocation to some extent and enough to have reduced the judgment below murder in the first degree. Strangely enough the defensive matter was not used, the attorneys for Webster relying entirely upon the prosecution's inability to make certain the time, place and manner of death. But for the condemned man's confession to his clergyman, made when he saw all hope was gone, the incident which must have