

waters. France is our traditional friend and first ally, and no conflict with her will take place if cool heads and wise counsels prevail; but another man-of-war being dispatched to Hayti on Jan. 7, and the growing discontent in France over our position on the Panama Canal question, cause things to look rather badly for the time at least.

It would indeed be an anomaly in the affairs of nations, if by such an arrangement of matters we should be negatively assisting Germany by opposing France in eastern waters, and opposing the former in company with England in western waters. Perhaps the wisest thing to be done just now would be to tow the *Haytian Republic* away from its alarm-creating situation back to this country, without waiting for its machinery to be repaired or anything else to be done; then if Germany and France must have an interchange of belligerent compliments, let them have no chance to shoot over or at the representatives of the United States when they do so. Every hour that that vessel remains in Haytian waters aggravates the situation, and, being a constant eyesore to the authorities there, should be removed on that account as well as the other.

A GENTLE SPIRIT GONE.

It seems but yesterday that William C. Morris called at our office to say "Good bye." It was his custom to do so when he was about to start on a trip involving an absence of a few weeks. Whenever he did absent himself from the city in which he was reared, there was a definite object connected with the occurrence—the advancement of his skill as an artist. On the occasion referred to he said, "I am going to New York to study in the Academy of Arts, not only for my own benefit and gratification, but to enable me to organize and teach classes, and thus do good in the community."

Somehow we did not catch his enthusiasm on the occasion, as he had been useful and could continue to be in his profession, without again leaving home. Little was it imagined, however, that we would never again gaze upon his friendly face in life.

The news came over the wires a few days ago that William breathed gas, resulting in a case of asphyxiation. The survivors from a condition of that kind are comparatively few; therefore, the hopes of recovery were generally slight from the beginning.

No particulars as to how the case was precipitated have, so far as we know, been received. The statement in another part of the paper which conveys the intelligence of the demise of Brother Morris, at half-past four o'clock on the morning of January 5th, will occasion no surprise, but a great deal of feeling.

The widespread sympathy which animated the community from the time of the reception of the first sad news shows that a simple, honest-hearted and talented man can fasten a strong grip upon the affections of a discerning people. There was nothing of the nature of "style" about him; he had his faults—no man is without them—but in addition to his being an artist of striking ability, a softer or kinder heart than his hardly ever throbbed in the breast of mortal. From an intimate acquaintance with him we can speak of him as he was known. He was the possessor of genius, and was therefore not so evenly balanced as the more smooth-sailing run of people. Take him as an all-round decorative artist, considering the number of lines in which he was conspicuously proficient, it would be difficult to find his equal. And he was such a good fellow withal that there will be but few who knew him who will be able to restrain the uprising of an involuntary tear when they learn of his sad fate, passing to the life beyond in a great city far from home and loved ones. The sympathy for his bereaved wife and family is both widespread and deep.

CLAIMS OF WYOMING.

DELEGATE CAREY, of Wyoming, who has just been re-elected for a third term, gives to a New York paper some reasons for the admission of his Territory as a State, and if his figures are correct, there would seem to be no sufficient cause why our neighbor should not be included in the list of those proposed to be shortly disenthralled in the manner suggested. Mr. Carey puts the population at over 100,000, and the wealth at about \$1,000 per capita, or 100,000,000 dollars; she has nearly completed a capitol building which is a better one in most respects than half the States have, besides possessing all the other public buildings and accessories of a free commonwealth. The total debt is \$300,000, or ten mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of property. The population are known to be intelligent, progressive and thrifty, and all

that would seem to be wanting is the assent of the President and Congress.

CLEANSING THE CHURCH.

THE Elders upon whom devolves the duty of teaching the Saints in a public capacity are largely actuated by the spirit to reprove, admonish and entreat. This is the genius of genuine teachers in the community. Like sleepless "watchmen," they are lifting up the warning voice concerning evils that are creeping in among the flock. It is specially urged upon the officers of the Church that they perform the important duty of ridding the body religious of corrupted and dead members. The condition of the people requires just such an attitude on the part of those who wish to see the purity of the Church maintained and perpetuated.

If the Lord holds in His hand a sore scourge for application upon the wicked of the world, justice, upon which His throne is seated, requires that He shall not pass by with impunity those who profess His name yet who perpetrate similar evils for which He will condemn the nations. Neither will He hold those wholly guiltless who suffer such things to exist in the community of Saints whose duty it is to see that they are eliminated that the Church may be preserved, so far as practicable, free from sin and uncleanness.

There are two processes by which the desired object can be obtained. (1) By means of the repentance of the wrong-doer. Of course this applies only to that class of offenders whose infractions of the laws of God are not of that gross and flagrant character that demands their unconditional expulsion. Then it is the plain duty of the officers to labor with backsliders and offenders with the sole object of bringing them to repentance. We are of opinion that more can be accomplished in this line in a private capacity than by public teaching. In fact the very position of a backslider and offender is such that it is rare that he accepts of an opportunity to be taught and admonished in a public assembly. Even when he happens to be present, he is left free to take general teachings or strictures home to himself or conveniently imagine they have an application to other people. Not so when approached privately; then matters can be brought directly home to himself. Teachings and advice thus tendered are also accompanied by the personal influence of