

around the central point and never ceases? Or has the balloon from some unforeseen cause become disabled and dropped them upon an ice floe, into some barren spot from which egress is impossible, or into the gorged waters of the Arctic circle? Either of these vicissitudes would mean that none of the explorers would ever be seen alive with mortal eyes again; it would mean not only this but perhaps a painful, lingering death before the end came for the victims.

It is a serious matter, and however it may turn out, is already one more admonition to the human family that axial-termit of the earth were evidently not designed for habitation by mankind in his present estate, and are evidently guarded by a power or condition which will always as it has ever successfully disputed his right to enter therein, at least with any hope of either remaining or getting out alive.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LASSITER.

More than three years ago, when the militia law of the then Territory had been passed and approved, Lieutenant William Lassiter of the Sixteenth U. S. Infantry was detailed by the war department for service with the National Guard of Utah that was to be. He reported to the Governor in April and from that time until Saturday last, the 7th inst., he has been identified with the organization. On the latter date he received long deferred promotion to a captaincy, obtained relief from his detail, and is now about to rejoin his regiment in Idaho.

To every man in the National Guard of Utah, whether holding a commission or being in the ranks, and whether now in the service or out of it—as well as to every well-wisher of the local military organization—Captain Lassiter has endeared himself in the most positive and permanent way. All of them will rejoice in his promotion, yet none of them but will feel regret at parting from him. During the trying and experimental stage of the Guard's existence he has ever been ready with words of encouragement and with sound, wise counsel to aid alike officers and men in their new duties. He is in fact the father of the Guard, and will be so remembered by all who during his term of service with us have learned to know him and his work. He leaves in this State a host of true, warm friends who will wish him success and happiness wherever his lines may be cast.

CANOVAS' ASSASSINATION.

The murder of Senor Antonio Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish premier, comes as a terrible blow to the present government there; but in it is a significance which reaches to every nation. If the assassination had been done in the interest of Cuba, or by the agent of a violent opposing political party in Spain, it might have been regarded, in one sense, as of local moment only. But it was not so. The murderer is an anarchist, and the intent to murder was known by anarchists. The blow was

directed, not at Canovas personally, but at his policy of retaining, by force of arms, Cuba to the Spanish crown, not at political methods that gave him party leadership, but at organized government. It came from that source which, if opportunity offered, would as quickly slay President McKinley, Kaiser William, Queen Victoria, or any other ruler. And because of this, as well as sympathy for the murdered statesman and his family, and abhorrence at the method employed in removing him, the assassination of Canovas is of deep concern to organized government throughout the world.

The anarchists everywhere rejoice that a murder has been committed, and that the victim is a leading representative of organized government. They rejoice, because destruction of life is their delight. In this country Justus Schwab declared his supreme happiness at the news; he thought at first that it was "too good to be true." In France, in England, in Germany, the anarchist class exult in about the same language. They endorse murder; and doing so give warning to organized society that if it would preserve itself it must treat anarchism and anarchism as mortal foes, whether they declare themselves in overt acts or in blatant speeches that incite or approve murderous deeds.

There is one specially disgusting feature about the comment on the killing of the Spanish premier. It is the exulting which some alleged friends of Cuban independence do over the possibility that it may aid Cuba. Such exultation reveals the most despicable of souls. Fortunately for the Cuban cause, most of its friends abhor the murder. No decent man can do otherwise, no matter how much he disagreed with the great Castilian policy.

As to the probable results of Canovas' taking away, these are a proper subject for consideration. In a regretful frame of mind that he was taken by the assassin's bullet; for they form a question with which Spain is face to face today, and which concerns the civilized world. It is possible that it will not lead to the overthrow of the present dynasty; but the probability is otherwise. There was dissatisfaction with the premier's policy, and there was and is political enmity to the reigning power. This enmity comes from monarchists and republicans—the latter because of a desire for a republic, and the former by reason of their support of Don Carlos. It is probable that one or the other of these parties will have their way, not so much on account of Canovas' death, but because Spain has very nearly if not quite run her course in liberal government.

Premier Canovas was 69 years of age on the 8th of February last. Receiving a liberal education, he entered the field of journalism, and was making a name for himself when his abilities led him to be selected for political preferment. He had a stormy career, and has displayed great energy and courage, eliciting the admiration even of his enemies for his vigor and ability, though condemned by them for his severity. He was an aristocrat of the

old Castilian school, and yielded to the democratic tendencies of the age only when no other course was left open to him. His taking off is murder of the most abominable type. It is the work of a movement that is increasing in the civilized nations, to their most imminent peril, if not to the promise of their undoing.

A BUSINESS NEED.

This does not promise to be a particularly good season for place-hunters, politicians or even place-holders. The people are getting right well tired of the whole hungry crew of them—speaking generally of each variety, and always allowing for honorable exceptions. There is beginning to exist a feeling that the man who thinks he has a patent and exclusive right to his office, as well as the man who is ready for any office whatever, and is not making a living unless he has some office, are both and severally the very men whom the public has had enough of. It would also seem that the public is beginning to tire of incompetence, inexperience, and ignorance in those whom it pays for their services, and is cherishing the view that considering the price paid, the employer is not getting his (or its) money's worth. We shall be told that this is the usual stock talk before election, and in truth we shall have to admit it. Yet there are some straws that indicate rather more plainly than in some years past a determination to turn at least some of the rascals out and give honest and able men a swing at the helm.

Already a crop of candidates for the mayoralty, councilmanic and other honors in Salt Lake City is announced as being carefully nurtured and satisfactorily maturing. These early political upshoots, like the early worm which is nipped by the still earlier bird, are generally not dangerous to the candidates which come along later after business has begun in earnest and the season is fairly open. Even a good candidate is nearly always killed off if he shies his oyster into the ring too early and leaves the combined and more wary opposition abundant time to concentrate their fire upon him at long or short range—he is generally riddled.

This is the commonly accepted view from the politician's standpoint. With that view, however, we have nothing to do; neither shall we have anything to say of the premature aspirants, individually or collectively, who are panting to serve their city for their own good. A word to its present servants, however, may be permitted; and that is that if they want to do at least one thing to cause their record to live in green and grateful remembrance, they will at once begin to prune both offices and salaries with an unsparring hand. There are too many jobs in the municipality, too many feeders at the public crib, and the patronage and pay ladled out are altogether too generous. While there is yet time a determined effort should be made to correct the evil; it is a chance for the city fathers to redeem themselves in a measure which they cannot afford to neglect. The advice is offered in all kindness, and with