

For months he has been working a scheme to replenish his treasury. Failing in negotiating a loan as large as his needs demanded, he has now issued a lot of paper money to make up the deficiency. The paper money is ostensibly an antidote for famine but the gold it will bring to the treasury is undoubtedly an "anchor to starboard" in the event of a war emergency.

A few days ago his ukase was made public forbidding the exporting of any more grain or flour from Russian territory. The decree was at first denied absolutely, but when the denial failed to operate against the rumor, the action was immediately attributed to the failure of crops. Meanwhile immense stores of grain are being hoarded in the military warehouses, and so the preparations proceed, and while the failure of crops may have something to do with it the fact is worth noting that no energies are wasted on preparations that would not be of excellent service in case of a military struggle.

"MORMON" COLONIZERS.

THE success of our people who have taken up their abode in Mexico has attracted a great deal of attention. Every newspaper of importance has something to say about the "Mormon" colonists in that country making the desert to "blossom as the rose," with other more original remarks. The numbers of "Mormon" residents in Mexico are greatly exaggerated, but the accounts of their prosperity are genuine.

A great many foolish surmises are indulged in as to the probable results of this supposed "Mormon" exodus. But our contemporaries need not be alarmed on the one hand or too joyful on the other. Mexico will not suffer morally or in any other way from an influx of "Mormons," however great or small it may be. And Utah will not be evacuated in the process; it is only an overflow that finds its way into that country or any of the States and Territories adjacent.

It will be found that the "Mormons," wherever they settle, will behave well enough, and that were it not for adventurers and meddlers, pious calumniators and disappointed and avaricious speculators and office seekers, there would have been little or no trouble arising out of any "Mormon question" anywhere.

The Tucson, Arizona *Star* has this to say in reference to "Mormon" colonists:

"There is no denying the fact that the Mormon people of the Territories have

done more to reclaim the deserts to agriculture than all the Gentiles combined. It is also a fact that they have imported fewer vices and expensive habits than any other people. They have aided in subduing the Indians and given their industry to State building. Now the treatment they have received from the Government and continue to receive, is compelling many thousands of these thrifty, industrious, virtuous people to find homes and protection on a foreign soil and under a foreign flag. They are going by the thousands into Mexico."

A SLIM OBJECTION.

THE objection said to have been made by the postal authorities to the effects of the Keeley cure for dipsomania does not count for much. They say that patients forget their names, the names of their friends and the names of places, and that many letters bearing the card of the Keeley Institute are returned to Dwight post office, because of improper or omitted addresses and other mistakes.

All that may be true and yet furnish no arguments against the process or its effects. It must be remembered that most of the patients arrive at that place in a dilapidated condition. Some of them are in advanced stages of delirium tremens. Others are wrecks from too excessive use of narcotics or opiates. To attribute their mistakes in sending letters, to the remedy which it is admitted "removes the taste for liquors," is somewhat of a stretch of reasoning if not of imagination.

But supposing the treatment has the effect upon the brain that is alleged. It is pretty certain that it is only temporary, for the patients soon recover their former natural powers, and appear among their friends, respectable and "clothed in their right minds." It is no wonder that when the stimulants, once taken in such quantities and so frequently as to become like "second nature," are entirely discontinued, the effect is at first debilitating and that imperfect memory is at least a temporary result.

There may be permanent detrimental effects of the double chloride of gold cure for dipsomania, but if there are we have not heard of them, and the testimony of the restored and grateful patients certainly exhibits no loss of mental or physical powers from the treatment. The postal objections is neither well-grounded nor well considered.

CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES.

THE New York *Mail and Express* says that the great political issues of the time are the tariff, reciprocity, the currency, civil service reform, and a free ballot. On every one of these questions the two great national parties

are more or less directly antagonistic. On the protective tariff, and on reciprocity, the Democratic party is emphatically pronounced in its opposition. But as to the civil service and a free ballot, it is not quite clear what is the attitude of that party.

So far as the observance of the civil service is concerned, it is admitted on all sides that under Cleveland the law was more strictly adhered to than under any President since it was adopted. As to the free ballot, if by that is meant the "Force bill," the Republican party as a whole could not swallow that measure, therefore it is scarcely correct to give all the honor of the opposition to Democrats. And in the matter of ballot reform generally, one party seems as anxious to arrive at good measures as the other.

In the currency issue the *Mail and Express* contends that the question of free coinage of silver is entirely a Democratic doctrine. In 1890 twenty-two Democratic State conventions declared for free silver. During the current year the Democrats of Kentucky, Mississippi, Iowa and Ohio have adopted in their State platforms free silver planks. By next year the Democratic party throughout the whole nation will be committed to the free coinage of silver.

The question must of necessity come up in the national convention, where, according to the goldite organ above mentioned, it will prove the Banquo ghost of the party, and strike with terror the party leaders. This organ contends that the rank and file of the Democratic party are only awaiting an opportunity of repudiating "the rank fallacy underlying this fraudulent silver scheme" advocated by professional politicians and demagogues.

The *Mail and Express* contends that the worst calamity which could befall this country would be the passage of a free silver coinage bill. It says that India and South America are on a silver basis, but these countries are not models for us. Mexico and the United States are the two principal silver coinage countries at present. Other nations are shelving silver and seeking a gold basis. France stopped adding to her silver thirteen years ago, while we are increasing our store monthly by \$4,500,000. The theory of this organ is that silver would ultimately displace gold in this country. Here is its statement:

"Silver owners have already put \$390,000,000 of silver upon us. The world's annual silver product is about \$168,000,000, which this fraudulent democratic silver scheme would force us to take. Europe has about \$1,100,000,000 of silver on hand, and is only waiting for the consummation of this unlimited silver coinage fraud to be unloaded upon us."