

education is acquired largely through experimental legislation, made effective more through carrying out the aims of the law than through a possible extravagant or injurious construction that courts might give to the letter of the statute. The fact is that there is a good deal of puzzling all around as to which is the better course to pursue, and as yet there appears not even a glimmering of light for a sure and safe way.

Guntton's Magazine makes one serious error in its report of recent state legislation. It is in the statement that "income tax and inheritance tax bills were passed in Utah." This conveys the idea that such laws were passed in this State, whereas there were no enactments of that kind. The bills on those subjects were defeated in the Utah Legislature.

THE CUBAN TROUBLE.

The NEWS is in receipt of a copy of the June number of the Rosary Magazine with a request of the editor, Rev. J. L. O'Neill, to notice an article under the caption "Spain, Cuba and the United States," published, as stated, "in the interest of truth."

The author of the article takes the view that Spain has done everything within its power to extend a Christian civilization over Cuba and that she is willing to further grant concessions in the direction of self-government; he contends that the rebellion is carried on chiefly by the lawless element of the island, and that interference in any way whatever is uncalled for. On this point he says:

While the island, so far as it was touched by the beneficial agencies of Spain, bloomed to the highest possible degree, an unruly element, reinforced by the dregs of the larger cities, and those adventurous spirits that are never wanting in complex civilization, ever ready to lead the rebellious crowd to conspiracy and sedition, sprang up in the interior. This element, composed of negroes, mulattoes, Spanish failures and foreign adventurers, none of them really averse to Spanish rule, which indeed could not weigh heavily upon people who had nothing to lose and scarcely were touched by it, but averse to anything that looked like rule and order, broke out in sedition. Such men as these, some of whom were able demagogues or clever filibusters, scented prey in the Pearl of the Antilles, and were received with open arms by those who "are ever ready for something new."

It is further charged that the insurrection is fed entirely by "certain evil elements in our American life," that arouse hopes in Cubans which can never be fulfilled. In these "evil elements" Senator Morgan and others are included, for the author remarks:

While this article goes to press, Senator Morgan and his staff are trying hard in the Senate to revive the dead body of the insurrection, giving new hopes to the poor wretches, who would be glad to accept peace with honor if there were no hope of having their chestnuts pulled out of the fire by the United States. Does it ever occur to Mr. Morgan that the evils he complains of in the island

of Cuba are largely due to his hysterical actions?

The article closes with the assurance that Cuba cannot be separated from Spain. The country is not in a very distressed predicament, as long as any amount of money can be raised and overdrawn by the free will of the people, while the bankers of the nation are willing to advance without interest, payable in ten years after the revolt is over, any sum of gold that may be necessary for the government to establish peace.

What a great nation, with such principles, and imbued by such patriotism, can do if forced to a struggle for its honor and national existence, the example of mutilated Prussia in 1806, after the loss of all her western provinces to the Elbe, so impoverished that even the royal family had scarcely three "square" meals every day, may well teach.

Undoubtedly there are two sides to the Cuban question, and it is but fair that those who regard it chiefly from a Spanish point of view should have an opportunity to be heard, as well as those whose sympathies are all with the Cubans. The trouble in the island, however, has now assumed such an aspect that the chief question is not as to which of the contending parties is in the right, but whether a civilized nation is justified in permitting it to continue any longer. A special representative of President McKinley has just returned from Cuba. His impression, as published, is that the effect of General Weyler's tactics simply are to depopulate the unfortunate country by starving women and children to death. Even the deeds of mercy of the members of the Red Cross society are prohibited. Hospitals are raided and wounded men cruelly butchered. Is it any wonder that a vast majority of Americans it seems as if the time had come to call a halt in this kind of warfare? In the interest of both Spain and Cuba the demands of humanity must be considered.

CONFESSION OF MURDER.

If the confession of Alfred Freil, of the murder of John Kensler, be correct, as given in the Mountain Home, Idaho, Republican, it affords one more illustration of the difficulties that attend the work of officers in ferreting out criminals. In this particular case it causes regret that the technical blunder of a prosecuting attorney enabled Freil to escape the penalty for murder in the first degree, and get a second trial which lessened the grade of his offense. Kensler and his wife had quarreled, and she had used some strong language against him while she was angry. This led to her arrest, but she declared that Freil had done the killing, and had compelled her, under threat of death, to assist in disposing of the body. Freil said the woman did the killing. Now he admits that the woman's story is correct. Of course it may be a scheme of his to liberate the woman, since nothing worse can be done to him under the law, but that would not be consistent with his former claim of innocence, and would destroy

any hope of executive clemency he might entertain. It is probable that now he has told the truth. But in the trial of the case it was a close call for him to get off and throw the whole burden on the woman, whom his statement now shows to be innocent. Her trouble was largely from her own intemperate threats, made while angry. Her experience might be a warning to other wives who may have disagreements with their husbands to be very careful about making threats that can be used against them in the event of the husband falling a victim to some one else's criminal capacity.

GRINDING POLITICAL PARTIES.

The incident in the United States Senate on Monday of Senator Cannon, elected as a Republican, voting to put lumber on the free list, and of Senator Rawlins, a Democrat, casting his ballot for a protective tariff on the same material, is an illustration of departure from party tradition that indicates still further the disintegrating processes that are going on to present political party organizations. Doubtless both Utah Senators can give strong reasons for their respective positions, for there is no question that both acted conscientiously. The NEWS does not criticize either one of them, but only calls attention to the incident to show that the representatives of this State in Congress are partaking of the rapidly increasing sentiment to disregard party traditions in favor of individual convictions of duty—a sentiment which augurs a great deal of re-alignment of political party lines ere many more years pass over.

The incident recalls, in a modified form, the recent utterances of John Wanamaker in a speech at the business men's league in Philadelphia. He told how the young men of the country were growing up with no respect for parties of broken platforms, who use national and state patronage in payment of election contracts; declared that the political religion of the nation is falling lower and lower, under insults to intelligence, violation of law, and the reckless daring of unscrupulous bosses; and he predicted that there are immeasurable depths of misfortune for this nation if the continued use of corporate and public moneys and the disposition of federal and state patronage continues to be controlled in the interest of office-seekers—a procedure which he regarded as a precursor of revolution. He declared:

The foes America has to fear are not the sullen, savage Turks, nor the insurrectionists of Cuba, nor the territory-grasping British, but they are our own patient and heart-tired people, our own suffering, much-promised people, who, betrayed and disheartened, no longer have faith in their party, and will turn to any leadership that offer promise of better times, believing that worse times can never come than those now existing. It is a terrible thing to observe public sentiment adrift and uncaptured and the people sweeping away from their affection to the old party.

Doubtless the charge made by the party press, that Mr. Wanamaker's utterances were those of a soured,