

It is time that something should be done by way of preparation, if it is deemed advisable to respond to the recommendation of the President.

A DANGEROUS CLASS.

ONE of the most blooming rascals that has been unearthed for some time is Bernard Blume, the leader of a gang of fire-bugs, the seat of whose operations was Jersey City. It seems from later developments that this gang was but one of a large number of others, located in many of the large cities, with Chicago as the head centre.

A number of mysterious fires that occurred a short time ago in the city last named are understood to have had a similar origin to those of Jersey City. The police were about to put their hands upon the depredators, but the arrest of Blume put the rascals on their guard. A fellow named Lake is the head of a similar villainous band in Boston, and he is understood to hail from Chicago.

The last Arizona Legislature enacted a statute making train robbery a capital offense within the borders of that Territory. If there is any difference of degree in the matter of heinousness between that crime and the business in which Blume and his confederates have been engaged, it falls in favor of the latter. They not only rob the insurance companies and destroy the property they rent for that purpose, but also much that is contiguous to it. In addition they endanger the lives of their fellow beings, and doubtless are the means of destroying them in many instances.

Civilized society has no use for such hideous monsters, and we presume it would not do violence to the feelings of the general public if laws were enacted rendering the perpetrators of crimes of such enormity as those of which they are guilty subject to the most extreme penalty within the penal code.

VERY HUMAN IDOLS.

PUBLIC sympathy has been liberally bestowed upon Emin Bey, who has been described as a man of large and philanthropic soul. It remained for the noble Stanley to show his superiority to ordinary mortals by turning his sympathetic sentiments into a practical shape and trudging over the Dark Continent for the relief of the intrepid Bey.

When it seemed evident that Stanley had become a victim of

bloodthirsty savages, a gigantic blubber arose from the civilized section of the globe.

Since the reception of news to the effect that the relieved and the reliever were marching triumphantly toward Zanzibar with a large caravan of natives loaded with 6000 choice elephants' tusks, the public grief has naturally subsided, and the popular heart has ceased to throb with apprehension for the safety of two of their idols.

It appears to dawn upon the ordinary mind that, mixed with the philanthropic aspirations of Emin and Henry, there is no small degree of consideration for the main chance. There seems to be a financial relief connected with the scheme, and the latest phase of it indicates that there is an intensely human side to these two heroes of a dramatic story.

A HERD OF MASTODONS.

It is stated by Alaska natives that there are herds of the supposed extinct mastodon feeding within the boundaries of that somewhat unknown Territory. This may be a mistake. But it is not impossible that some of the lineal descendants of that massive animal, the bones of which are exhibited in museums as belonging solely to the paleozoic period, may be wandering in the wilds of that unexplored region, hitherto accessible only to the wandering savages.

A living specimen of the monster mammal would be indeed a curiosity, and would upset many of the calculations of the geologists, paleontologists, antiquarians and others, who have no doubt greatly antedated the ages of the earth's changes and productions, and attributed to the process of many centuries, phenomena that were produced by sudden convulsions and comparatively instantaneous movements of mighty Nature. We hope the report of the Alaskans will be investigated and traced to its foundation. An active and healthy mastodon would be another fortune to the world-renowned managerie phoenix, the irrepressible Barnum.

STORY OF THE DISASTER.

A FULL account of the marine disaster at Samoa appears elsewhere in this issue.

The story is somewhat crudely told, but here and there are graphic flashes. It would have been more acceptable if it were more consistent

and the facts presented in better order. It starts out with a misstatement—that six war-ships were ground to atoms—and subsequently furnishes an array of facts showing that two of the six were beached, did not go to pieces, and have since been floated. Neither does it appear that any of the others were actually broken to atoms, the statement in that regard having been made for effect, after which there has been considerable straining throughout. To thus start out with an assertion, and then annihilate it with facts, is equal to laying down a proposition and destroying it with the argument.

The narrative is offered too much in the form of desultory patches not arranged in their proper positions, the reader being under the necessity of resorting to mental leaping to form connections. The tale would have been better had it been more consecutive, and if there had been fewer repetitions. However, it is the best and really the only description that has reached us and every reader can take the statements it contains and out of the materials form his own picture of the dramatic occurrence.

In reading this account of the phenomenal disaster one cannot help being struck by the heroism of the officers and seamen generally who were upon the ill-fated vessels and exposed to the fury of the storm. Not a whit behind this feature was the unselfish devotion, undaunted courage and remarkable endurance of the people on shore who labored with rare intrepidity to save the lives of the unfortunate mariners.

In this latter phase of the catastrophe it is specially notable that the natives placed the white residents far in the shade. They ventured out into the surging surf—where white men were afraid to go—buffeting the angry waves, snatching drowning men from the jaws of death and carrying them to the shore. Nor did their efforts cease with the saving of life, as they, in the spirit of self-sacrifice, contributed from their scanty stores of provisions supplies for the support of the rescued American sailors.

We hope there will be some solid expression of appreciation from our government of the valuable and heroic service thus rendered to this country in a time of extreme peril. Certainly some Christianlike act on our part is due if for no other purpose than