

civilization's development. In view of this, it might be surmised that if the viceroy were twenty years younger the next decade would witness the most surprising changes in China. As it is, there is good reason to believe that if Li is spared a few years more, his country will fairly leap forward in some of the improvements that will be instituted. The eminent health he has not been looking up railways, steamships, factories, electric works, and other great factors in civilization, for nothing.

In countries like China, development is from the ruling powers down; what they decree is carried out; the masses never think of instituting anything new, because such thought would have no scope for growth into tangibility. But when the practical ruler of the empire sees that the advantages that accrue to other nations from certain features are within reach for his own country, and to enhance his own prestige at home and abroad, the most natural thing is to reach out for them. This is what appears to be likely in the case of the observant viceroy. He will return impressed with the great power for national progress that attends the agency of steam and electricity in the arts of war and peace. China is a great industrial nation. And it should not surprise anyone if, within a few years, these agencies are given such force in Li's dominion as will make the Chinese formidable competitors with other nations in the industrial and commercial world. Li Hung Chang is a beacon in the eyes of millions of people; but the most advanced representatives of civilization who have associated with him all agree that he possesses a large amount of good sound sense.

THE JEWISH NEW YEAR.

Yesterday, September 8th, was celebrated as New Year's day among the Jews, this being according to their chronology the year 5657 after the creation of the world. The festival is one of great importance to them and is celebrated with peculiar observances. What its significance is may be gathered from the following extract from a prayer with which the services conclude in many of the synagogues:

We will make mention of the mighty holiness of this day, for it is tremendous and awful. Thereon is thy kingdom exalted, and thy throne established in grace, whereupon thou art seated in truth. Verily it is thou who art judge and arbitrator, who knowest all, and art witness, writer, sigillator, recorder, and teller; thou callest to mind all things long forgotten (by mankind) and dost open the book of records, for it bears every man's signature. The great trumpet is sounded: a soft whispering noise is heard: the angels shudder; fear and trembling seize them; Ah! (they cry) it is the day of judgment; the heavenly host are to be arraigned in judgment; (for in justice even they are not found sinless before thee). All who are about to enter into the world now pass before thee, as a herd of sheep. (Reader) As the shepherd mustereth his flock, and passeth them under his crook, so dost thou cause to pass, number, appoint, and visit, every living soul, limiting the period of life of all creatures, and prescribing their destiny.

On the First Day of the year it is inscribed, and on the Fast Day of Atonement, it is sealed and determined, how many shall pass away, and how many be born; who shall live, and who die, whose appointed time is finished, and whose is not; who is to perish by fire, who by water, who by the sword, and who by wild beasts; who by hunger, or who by thirst; who by earthquake, or who by the plague; who by strangling, or who by lapidation; who shall be at rest, and who shall be wandering; who shall remain tranquil, and who disturbed; who shall reap enjoyment, and who shall be painfully afflicted; who shall get rich and who become poor; who shall be cast down, and who exalted. But "Penitence, Prayer and Charity can avert the evil decree."

Among the ceremonies attending the celebration of this great festival is the sounding of the cornet, in obedience to the law as recorded in Numbers 29: 1-7:

And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have a holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work; it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.

There are three different blasts in this ceremony. One is called Tekeha and is a plain, protracted sound. Another is called Shevarim and is an interrupted sound repeated three times. The third is Teruha, which is a trill or tremulous sound. These are preceded and followed by prayers and have each a distinct meaning in the services. A Jewish writer, Rabbi Saadiah, explains the meaning of this ceremony. He says God commanded His people to sound the cornet for ten reasons, in substance as follows:

1. Because this day is the beginning of creation, on which God began to reign over the newly created world; and as it is customary at the coronation of kings to sound the trumpets and cornets, to proclaim the commencement of their reign, we, in like manner, publicly proclaim by the sound of the cornet, that the Creator is our King.

2. As the New Year is the first of the ten penitential days, we sound the cornet as a proclamation, to admonish all to return and repent; which, if they do not, they cannot plead ignorance, having been fully informed. Earthly kings publish their decrees, that none may plead ignorance thereof.

3. To remind us of the law given on Mount Sinai, where it is said: (Exod. 19: 16) "And the voice of the cornet was exceeding loud."

4. To remind us of the prophets, who are compared to watchmen blowing the trumpets (Ez. 33: 4).

5. To remind us of the destruction of the holy temple, and the terrifying alarm of the enemy's warriors shouting to battle, as mentioned in Jer 9: 19. And, therefore, when we hear the sound of the cornet, we ought to beseech the Almighty to rebuild the holy temple.

6. To remind us of the binding of Isaac, who willingly submitted himself to the will of heaven. Thus ought we also willingly resign ourselves even to death, for the sanctification of the unity of God's holy name.

7. That when we hear the sounding of the cornet, we may, by the dread thereof, be induced to humble ourselves before the Supreme Being, for the consequence of the sounding of these martial wind instruments is, to produce dread and terror, as Amos says: "Shall a trumpet be blown in a city, and the people not be terrified?"

8. To remind us of the great and awful day of judgment, on which the trumpet

is to be sounded, as mentioned in Zephaniah 1: 14-16. The great day of the Lord is near; it is near, and hasteneth much; a day of the trumpet and of shouting.

9. To remind us to pray for the time when the outcasts of Israel are to be gathered together, as mentioned in Isaiah 27: 13.

10. To remind us of the resurrection of the dead, when the last trumpet shall sound.

There are many beautiful thoughts expressed in this exegesis, a devout contemplation of which must necessarily have an ennobling effect. It is noticeable that every returning new year the sound of the trumpet calls the people to repentance and reminds them that it is their duty to pray for the gathering of Israel and the rebuilding of the temple on the ancient site. Surely their prayers will not be in vain.

BRAVE "BILLY" BRYAN.

Making all allowances for the coloring to suit western readers which the press dispatches may have imparted to their reports of Mr. Bryan's tour in the East, the fact remains that that distinguished gentleman returns to his home state today after one of the most phenomenally successful electioneering feats ever performed in American politics. Friend and foe will have to admit that he has conducted himself with admirable propriety, and that his utterances have been marked at all times by singular discretion and patriotism. He has grown amazingly in popular estimation, and without estranging any element of his own following, he has won many thousands of lukewarm friends and even opponents to his ardent support. He has proven himself abler and bigger than almost any one believed him to be, and his courage, logic and dignity have exacted from opponents a degree of consideration that could never have been deserved by a mere demagogue. He has fairly won his spurs in gallant contest, and has given the champions of the opposition many a thrust that has set their old bones rattling. Whether he wins or loses the splendid prize for which he is striving, he at least has extorted the respect of all classes, and has bravely set a pace as a campaigner which it will bother the swiftest of them to keep up with.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The late report of Mr. Kiebley, the United States commercial representative at Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, in which he refers to the work of the co-operative societies in Great Britain, calls to mind the efforts that are being made to destroy those organizations in parts of Scotland. Mr. Kiebley's report says that these societies in the British Isles employ 70,000 people, produce a vast quantity of their own wares, devote a quarter of a million dollars annually to educational purposes, such as the maintenance of reading rooms and free library classes, and have a trade amounting to \$291,990,000 each year. His report is made in view of the fact that an effort is being made in Australia to have