

as king of Norway. Prince Waldemar is named for this honor.

This, if true, places the Norwegian problem in a different light. As long as the question was to gain full independence and a free government, the Norwegian radicals had the sympathy of a large party even in Sweden. But if it comes to this, that the union is to be dissolved and Norway simply change monarchs, a change which might lead the country back to the position of a province of Denmark, it is probable that the whole Swedish people will unite in resistance.

The dispatch wired from Berlin is significant. King Oscar and Emperor Wilhelm have recently had an interview, ostensibly for the purpose of hunting elks, but perhaps really on account of more important affairs. The statement that the Swedish king is prepared to use force against one of his kingdoms may intimate that the two crowned heads have come to some agreement concerning the fate of the nations, only the time is past when the will of the ruler is law. The will of the people must be obeyed, even in constitutional monarchies.

#### "SPEAK UP, BRETHREN?"

A week or so ago the NEWS published, from a correspondent signing himself "Legion," a suggestion headed "Speak up, Brethren!" the substance of which was that too many speakers at funerals, perhaps affecting a gentle, solemn, sympathetic tone, were not to be heard by many of the audience, who, owing to the mournful and chastening circumstances, were in a condition peculiarly receptive to the consolatory and instructive truths of the Gospel pertaining to life, death and the resurrection. Since that time we have received a poetical criticism of the same tenor and accompanied by the same suggestions from a lady, who thinks the a vice should also be, "Speak up, Sister!"—our correspondent alluding to Relief Society and Young Ladies' Improvement association conferences, where not more than half the congregation could hear the words of the speaker. And now in the latest mail from Box Elder county comes a letter from "M," dated Portage, Dec. 23, in which the NEWS is mildly complained of for not having gone far enough in its earlier publication on the subject. "M" accordingly reinforces the previous suggestion, "Speak Up!" by another one, "Speak to the Front, Brethren! Speak to the Front!" He quotes approvingly a text taken by Elder Brigham Young at the last October Conference in the Tabernacle, to the effect that he felt moved to speak to one of the pillars of the gallery in the east end of the vast building. "M" continues: "If some of the rest of the speakers in the Tabernacle would follow his example it would make our large assemblies in that hall much more interesting, for it is very annoying, to say the least, after people have come from 100 to 300 miles to attend a Conference, and sit and strained every nerve of their hearing organs to catch what the speaker is saying, to have the latter then turn his back to them and talk to the brethren on the stand or those sitting to his right or left, and

let the large portion of his audience guess at what he has said; or, as I have often done myself, get the evening or morning paper to read what I would have preferred to hear from the speaker's own lips." Our correspondent concludes: "I do not wish to complain or find fault, and I offer these remarks with the very best of feelings and in behalf of vast multitudes of brethren and sisters who want to feast on the good things provided for the Saints at these Conference meetings," all of which the NEWS readily believes, and thinks the brethren who are unfortunately liable to the faults referred to will take no offense at the mention of them. Nothing can be more tedious and disappointing to an audience anxious to hear than to have to sit an hour or more with only a word or a fragment of a sentence now and then to bring to the ears a realization of the fact that some one is speaking; and where there is no vocal or physical weakness on the latter's part there would seem to be no excuse for thus imposing on them. It is sometimes a very effective oratorical artifice so to pitch the voice that the breathless attention of the hearer is necessary. Before large audiences, however, this can rarely be employed with profit, and never to such an extent as to require a constant and uncomfortable straining of the ears, with the risk that even then much will be lost. Whatever is worth saying in public at all is worth saying loud enough to be heard; and those who speak in meetings, as well as those who preside, will earn much gratitude if they bear the fact constantly in mind and govern themselves and their meetings by it.

#### A VOID ELECTION.

The supreme court of California has handed down a decision that touches upon a point of interest to voters in selecting a candidate for office. By the ruling of the court it is declared that the office of the chief of police of Sacramento is vacant, and that the last election for filling that office was void. The reason for annulling the election is that the candidate who received the highest number of votes has been declared to be disqualified for election.

The balloting in the Golden state's capital was done on March 8, 1892, when John B. Rogers was elected chief of police. The opposing candidate, who received a minority of the votes, was Moses M. Drow. He contested the election on the ground that Rogers was not a citizen, and therefore not eligible to hold the office. The case was closely contested in the courts, all of which held the same way. Rogers was born in Australia, of British parents, and came with them to this country when a child. His real surname was Baxter, Rogers being his stepfather's name. He claimed that he was a citizen, first, because his father, Thomas H. Baxter, was naturalized before he was 21 years old, and second, because, while he was still a minor, his mother married W. A. Rogers, a native born citizen. As to the first claim, it was shown that Baxter was not naturalized until the son was over 21; and on the other ground it

was established that Mrs. Baxter married W. A. Rogers without the formality of a divorce from her husband, from whom she had been separated for a number of years. These conclusions of course settled the matter against the defendant Rogers.

But while the candidate who received the highest number of votes was held to be ineligible to enter upon the duties of the office and was therefore excluded, the court would not permit the eligible person who received the next highest number of votes to receive a certificate of election. He had not received the highest number of votes cast for any one person, and the failure in this respect was held to be as complete a disqualification to assuming the duties of the office as had been the non-citizenship in the other case. The courts therefore declared that the election itself, so far as the chief of police was concerned, was "null and void," and that the usual procedure, as regulated by statute in cases of vacancies, must be followed in this instance to give Sacramento a head to its police department.

#### DEPEW'S MISSION TO ROME.

Chauncey M. Depew, who has been absent some time in Europe, has returned to New York. Interviewed by a reporter, he talked about his visit to Rome and his audience with the pope. His holiness, he said, was strong in health and showed much interest in questions relating to the rights of property and of labor.

"When I arose to go," concluded Mr. Depew, "he took my hand and said he had the profoundest respect and admiration and love for the United States, and wished I would tell the American people that he was much impressed with the World's Fair, and had done all he could to help it; that he was much pleased and gratified to learn that I was always kind and considerate for the employees of my company, and that I had never made any distinction between those of the Catholic faith and others. He also expressed gratification when I told him of Archbishop Corrigan. Thus ended for me one of the most pleasant meetings with one of the most remarkable men of the age. The pope sent a message to me, but I received it when I could not return to the Vatican, that he looked to Americans with more interest and attention, in view of the rapidly increasing spread of socialism, and regards her as the great field of the future."

It is not generally known, but it is claimed by some who profess to know, that Dr. Depew went to Rome on a special mission. For years it has been the aim of certain financiers to establish a purely ecclesiastical banking institution in this country. Political complications in Italy have at intervals been of a nature to cause those nearest the papal throne to seriously contemplate a removal of the holy see to some other country, and the United States has been talked of as the best asylum. A removal of headquarters from Rome would involve the transfer of large sums of money to the new place of residence. It is said that the eloquent New York financier went to Rome with a view of inducing his holiness to consent to the establishment of a church bank in this