

Edmunds act, containing the autocratic proviso, passed the House of Representatives with a rush and a roar and Caleb was elated, but a high authority pushed a pin into his bubble in the shape of a stage whisper into his ear that he had better be off to Utah and attend to his proper and legitimate business. When the measure reached the Senate Mr. Edmunds stuck his senatorial scalpel into it and cut out the clause that created Caleb the head of a despotism. The centralization plot was only broken, not annihilated. The fragments are gathered again, and it assumes a "now you see it and now you don't" shape.

In his last report to the Secretary of the Interior our meek and gentle Governor A. L. Thomas made this highly seasoned recommendation:

"Some federal agency should be authorized to appoint the following county officers: selectmen, clerks, recorders, superintendents of district schools and assessors."

Now, that looks on top as if that "federal agency" to exercise a power that belongs to the people, who have a right to select their own officers, doesn't mean Mr. Thomas. But that gentleman has his own way of getting at things. When he has anything on hand he doesn't get on the roof of a high building and shout the details of the scheme to the passers by. His style reminds one of the man who was tramping over the country and called at a house. Instead of asking directly for what he wanted he said to the good lady: "If you please Madam could you oblige me by giving me a drink of water as I am so hungry that I do not know where I can get a place in which to sleep to-night?"

The question is, what federal agency is referred to? Let Senator Paddock, of Nebraska, an old associate on the Utah Commission of Governor Thomas, explain. That astute gentleman, on December 4th, 1889, introduced into the Senate, which was referred to the committee on judiciary his brief, but significant measure:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Governor of the Territory of Utah be, and he is, hereby authorized and empowered to appoint selectmen, clerk, recorder, assessor and superintendent of district schools in and for each and all of the counties of said Territory. And the term of office of all persons holding such of-

fices, and not so appointed, shall cease and determine on the appointment and qualification of their successors as provided in this act.

Sec. 2.—All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

As the first drafts of bills for special anti-"Mormon" legislation are, as a rule, framed in the office of some active politician of the "Liberal" party in this city, it is fair to infer that this one is no exception.

Of course Mr. Thomas has gone east in the interest of an appropriation for a government building. Taking into consideration his recommendation for the destruction of the elective power of the people and the entrusting of the prerogative to appoint local officers to some "federal agency," it is not too much to presume that his labors may take a conglomerate shape. The fact of a friend of his having solved the "agency" problem gives additional force to such a proposition.

Sometimes it is convenient to get into a big building when it is likely to rain.

AFRICA.

UNDOUBTEDLY Central Africa has a history; but modern scholars know little or nothing of it. For aught that is now known, the architectural remains of a mighty civilization fully equal to the extravagant portrayals of Haggard's imagination, may exist there. Antiquities may yet be brought to light in the Dark Continent that will add vast stores to our present information concerning the world's history. Conjecture and speculation have here an unbounded field.

It is known that Central Africa abounds in vast forests and luxuriant vegetation; hence that it is a region in which human life might be easily sustained. It is also known that it swarms with savage tribes of negroes. But of the antecedents of those tribes very little is known. Whether they are the remnants of nations that once dwelt in cities, were civilized and knew the true God, or whether their ancestors, for untold ages, were as they are, is purely a matter of surmise. The Bible believer will of course take it for granted that they are descendants of Noah, and that, for at least a time succeeding the flood, their progenitors possessed a knowledge of the God whom Noah worshipped.

But whatever may be the past

history of the tribes now found in Central Africa, a day is dawning in which an overruling providence evidently designs to carry to them the light of modern civilization. The Dark Continent will be rapidly penetrated and subdued by Europeans, from now on. The work will progress as much faster than it did in the case of America, as methods now in use for locomotion and communication excel those of the seventeenth century. Germany is rapidly perfecting arrangements for establishing a colonial empire in Africa, England will speedily extend her territory on that continent, and France shows a determination to do the same thing.

The greed for land which modern civilized peoples, especially the Anglo-Saxons, display, will here find an abundant supply. There is plenty of room here for another Union of sovereign states, rivaling our own in population, extent and glory, to rise, flourish and—fall. Here the too dense populations of the old world may find another new world to which to migrate. Here, in short, may be re-enacted many developments of American history, for history delights in repeating itself.

Whatever may be the possibilities awaiting Africa, its destiny cannot equal in glory that of our own America. We live in the land which is choice above all other lands, and in which the capital city of the whole world, the seat of the Great King Himself will yet be established.

A SURPRISING DECISION.

"WELL we are not surprised!" So say a good many persons in comment upon Judge Zane's decision in the mandamus cases against the registration officers. We confess that we are surprised. We expected that His Honor would order the officers to perform their plain duty under the law, because we know that Judge Zane is a good lawyer, and because he usually renders sound decisions when they do not relate to the polygamy question, on which we regard him as somewhat of a fanatic.

In the decision Judge Zane shows that the registration officers have only ministerial functions, except when a voter is suspected of disqualification from polygamous relations or practices; that they are bound to perform their duties under the existing laws of Congress and of this Territory;