

taken, the system in a few seconds is aroused to meet and overcome these depressing effects and a sense of exhilaration follows. The skin now becomes ruddy, the whole body is in a glow, the pulse is stronger, the breathing is full and easy, and body and mind are invigorated.

Having recovered breath and courage, the bather, according to the doctor, may now take one or two more plunges, swim a few strokes, or allow two or three waves to pass over the head; and then all the good that can be derived from the bath has been acquired. "It may be prolonged for the sake of the pleasure to be derived from sporting in the cool water or from the profit to be attained in learning to swim, but no further constitutional benefit will be secured by the extension of the five or eight minutes already passed in the water."

This is the advice we were waiting to receive. We reproduce it in the interest of the resort proprietors, who object to loaning a bathing-suit and renting a room all day for twenty-five cents. And if to this be added the further warning not to swallow so much of the water as to make the bathing too shallow, the intelligent reader and bather will have been counseled enough, for this season at least.

THE HAWAIIAN MINISTER.

James H. Blount, United States minister to the Sandwich Islands, passed through today on his way to the capital, whither he goes post haste in response to a presidential summons. The gentleman could not, of course, find time to stay any longer than to make close connections in Utah, but the San Franciscans were more fortunate. There the reporters got at him to their satisfaction and the interviews as reported are quite interesting reading. The minister declared that, while his Hawaiian sojourn had been far from unpleasant, he was still glad to be back upon his native beach. He left affairs in the islands very quiet, in fact, he should not have left had they been otherwise. Everybody there is now awaiting the action of this government and there is no disposition toward turbulence or disorder. Being asked as to what the action of the United States regarding annexation would be, he did not give his questioner much satisfaction, saying:

I cannot tell any more than you can. I have not been informed as to the views or intentions of the administration on that question. I was simply delegated to inquire into the facts of existing conditions. I have done so, and forwarded my report to the state department over a month ago. As to the nature of that report I can give you no information. It is for the state department to give out information regarding it. Manifestly, I could not do so with propriety.

Mr. Blount thinks there is very little sentiment there in favor of a separate republic. At present the people are divided into annexationists and anti-annexationists. The present government and the part supporting it are in favor of annexation. A majority of those opposed to annexation are royalists, but there are some who are not royalists among them. However, all political activity is in abeyance

because of the pending question of annexation with the United States. If annexation is not accomplished the condition of affairs may change and public sentiment divide on some other issue. New divisions may arise on new lines. At present annexation or no annexation is the line of political demarcation in the islands.

It is truly gratifying to note that the blood and thunder element engendered in this country through the Hawaiian affair has about died out and the people have returned to calmness and reason. It the behests of a certain class had been observed there is no telling what complications might have resulted or when we could have exulted ourselves. Now, everything is settled down and whatever is done will be guided by reason and common sense and not by the product of rashness and uncombed united and applied.

REDUCE THE ASSESSMENT.

A petition which has already been published in full in the News has been presented to the County court of this county asking a reduction of 25 per cent in the assessments on realty for the fiscal year. Similar petitions have been and doubtless will be presented in other counties. The call for the reduction sets out that there is a general shrinking "owing to the war on silver," by means of which real property has declined 30 per cent while valuations otherwise have been largely reduced. Attention is called to the fact that Weber and Summit counties have already made such reductions and the state of Montana as a whole has fallen into line.

That there is a widespread and protracted depression in business affairs is a proposition too manifest to need discussion; and that the people's agents in making their regular levies in support of the local governments should take this into consideration should also require no argument. The right to tax does not proceed from any inherent power in the entities composing rulership, or rather in this country directorship, but rests entirely upon the necessities of the community taxed and the assent of the people thereto previously ascertained. Viewed in this light, and it is the proper one, a petition so numerously signed as to show that a majority of the taxpayers favor it, amounts to a command which those to whom it is presented may not disregard. Of course the latter are not automata, they are not even stipendiaries with no discretionary or executive power at all; on the contrary they are so largely invested with the right of conclusive action that they are seldom interfered with unless some actual abuse of the trust reposed in them occurs. A legal opinion from a firm of eminent attorneys, which appears in another column, takes the ground that the county may not make the reduction asked for; notwithstanding that, however, it seems to us that there must be some way, if not through the counties then through the territorial board, by which the prayer of the petitioners might safely and properly be granted, even though it should be found necessary in making ends

meet to cut down salaries here and there and retrench variously wherever possible. In times like these those whom we choose to serve us ought to be and in most cases doubtless are willing to accept of a fair proportion of the hardships which beset the community. Whether the treatment of silver be the root of the trouble or not, it still remains that the trouble itself is here and must be met as best we may meet it, not by a few, not even by several, but distributed around among all, each receiving a part in proportion to his standing in life and his general ability to carry such burdens.

The News is confident that it is on the right side and voices the right sentiment when it says, let the reduction asked for be granted!

A NATIVE CHIEF'S DOWNFALL.

Recent Samoan advices have given the western world the particulars of the fate of Chief Mataafa, once the hero of his native land, but now exiled as the penalty of unsuccessful revolt against the king. To the United States, particularly, there is much sorrow in the news of his disgrace, for when our shipwrecked sailors of the Trenton and Vandalla were in the direst distress he and his followers rendered them generous aid, and for his noble conduct he received from our Congress various gifts and the expression of national gratitude.

The New York Sun gives a brief sketch of his life and a pathetic picture of his present condition. He reached the height of his popularity and power when he had led his countrymen against Tamasese, whom the Germans, after deposing and banishing the rightful monarch, Malletoa, had installed as king; and he had defeated a German landing party, driving them with severe loss to their boats. No wonder he was idolized by the patriotic Samoans, who had proclaimed him their sovereign in Malletoa's absence. When Malletoa was brought back from exile the chiefs chose Mataafa as king, Malletoa abdicating in his favor; but this arrangement was upset by the three powers at Berlin, and at their demand Malletoa was restored to the throne. That was a hard blow to Mataafa, who at length took up arms against the king. But it was a hopeless undertaking, with the three treaty powers backing up Malletoa. Mataafa, however, would not be dissuaded even by the Americans, whom he knew to be his well-wishers. Now he is a prisoner and an exile from his native land, for which he fought so bravely, and which he loved so well; while his cup is the more bitter, since it is a German ship that has taken him away to the Union Islands. The Sun concludes with the suggestion that perhaps, after a time, the government at Washington would do well to use its friendly offices for his restoration to his native land, under guarantee of peace and loyalty to the sovereign.

A KANSAS man has a stepson ten years older, three inches taller and nineteen pounds heavier than himself. This particular Kansas man is strongly opposed to the corporeal punishment of children.