

the Egyptians twice as many, at least that is their field footing, and it is supposable that all were engaged. This would show the contest to have been a very unequal one, more than six to one; and while it is the best if not the only way to accomplish decisive results in Egypt and Arabia, it is doubtful if the dervishes do not strengthen their own hands proportionately, again take the field and, in the language of the great Blucher, "up and at 'em." We incline to the opinion that the victory, while important, is not conclusive by any means.

NOT A DEFEAT.

It is stated by "Liberals," with their usual inaccuracy, that the DESERET NEWS, which seems to incite their perpetual animosity and mendacity, stated on Monday, that "this city would poll up its old time majority for the People's party."

The DESERET NEWS did not say anything of the kind. The NEWS has all along explained to the people that this was not a city election and did not relate to city issues.

But we say now, that the People have done amazingly well and much better than on previous occasions. Also that having elected the entire county ticket, that is certainly a People's victory for both the city and the county. And having elected twenty-eight members of the Legislature to eight of the "Liberal" Party, the People's Party certainly have no reason to consider the election a defeat.

THE "BLACK DIAMOND" SEIZURE.

THE last Congress passed an act, which was signed by President Cleveland, assuming complete jurisdiction over the seal fisheries within the waters of Behring Sea. This was largely due to the influence and work of the Alaska Commercial Company, who hold a valuable monopoly from the government, which they sought to make more valuable and more lasting by retaining the exclusive right to catch seal in those waters and thus to make all foreign craft sailing in them *prima facie* trespassers and subject to seizure. It was by virtue of this act that the English vessel *Black Diamond* was captured a short time ago. Although she subsequently escaped, there is considerable of a flurry over the event, as there must inevitably be over anything which brings the United States

and Great Britain in opposition to each other.

England looks after her fishing interests with great tenacity and persistence, so much so that nearly all of the unpleasantness between the two countries for many years has grown out of that subject. This country does not need such an example as a justification for doing likewise; for if England were to let her fishing interests go to destruction, we would still have the inherent right to look after and maintain our own.

But it would be the policy of wisdom to first ascertain and determine, by some other means than a Congressional enactment, what our own actually is. It would be considered a piece of impudence, if nothing worse, for Russia to claim the exclusive right to the Black Sea. To proceed to take possession pursuant to such a claim would be to precipitate one of the bloodiest wars the world ever saw; and yet she has a continuous frontage on that body of water of about 1000 miles, nearly as much as have Turkey in Europe and Asia and the Turkish principalities combined. The Black Sea is about one-third the size of the Behring Sea, which our territory would not so nearly surround as does that of Russia the Black Sea, but for the Aleutian Archipelago. The question as to whether it should not be Behring Ocean is a proper one, and in any event it is, and must be, for purposes of navigation at least, an open highway.

It ill becomes us to be constantly on the alert for any act of usurpation or highhandedness on the part of other powers, while proceeding somewhat in the same direction ourselves.

TWO KINDS OF EDUCATION.

A TECHNICAL education is much better than none, and much less than everybody ought to have. The *New York World* recently stated in substance, when taken to task by a cotemporary for a grammatical departure, that it made no pretensions to exactness in all respects; it conveyed its ideas with sufficient clearness to be understood and that was the object. So it should be with all. The aim of those who established the rules was to accomplish exactness of expression; and while it is necessary to conform to these rules in the main, as otherwise solecisms and contradictions would be inevitable, yet it is not altogether neces-

sary that every nice regulation be strictly complied with. This latter could be done and the language still be clouded, turgid and even meaningless. A knowledge of the fundamental rules of grammar, especially the department of syntax, is indispensable to the journalist; but not more so than are facile expression, descriptive ability and great continuity.

A suggestive and somewhat amusing incident in this connection recently occurred between Frank Hatton and Theodore Roosevelt. The former is a Keokuk (Iowa) editor of considerable ability, and was once in President Arthur's Cabinet as Postmaster-General; while the latter is on the Civil Service Commission. Hatton had written a long and strong article criticising the civil service rules; Roosevelt made an analysis of the article, showing that the editor was so ignorant of the rules of grammar that he would be unable to pass the examination required by the Commission. This may be the case, and yet such deficiency on the editor's part did not prevent him from climbing pretty high.

THAT "ELIXIR OF LIFE" AGAIN.

A SHORT time ago the NEWS published an account of the purported discovery of a new "elixir of life" by Dr. Brown-Sequard, of Paris. We say "new" not because there has ever in fact been such a discovery nor admitting that this is one; but because there have been claims to such a thing before and it is necessary to discriminate as between the present and the past in this case. The first suggestion of such an elixir was by Ponce de Leon, a Spanish explorer and soldier who died in Cuba in 1521. His springs, to drink from which was to banish wrinkles, gray hairs and weak limbs, was purely the fancy of a partially disordered intellect, yet he had no difficulty in organizing a large expedition with three ships, and on March 3, 1512, sailed from Porto Rico for the Bahamas, one of which, an island which he called Bimini, was supposed to contain the wonderful fountain. But he never made any such discovery, of course, nor any other of consequence, and was afterwards mortally wounded in an Indian fight in Florida; his spring would have been very useful about that time, but it having failed to materialize, he went the way all flesh has gone before and since his day.