

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.

People are accustomed to looking back to the dark, benighted ages of mankind, when the strong mainly subsisted by preying on the weak one; when human life and liberty were sacred only in so far as upheld by the sword. We often contrast the present with that blood-soiled past and glory in the advancement of civilization, the triumph of reason and humane sentiments.

In the same way kind pity is often expressed in behalf of savages, who have not yet been brought under the mild influence of our superior nineteenth century civilization and morality. They must be rescued, if millions of dollars can do it.

It would be extremely interesting to know with what sentiments the wildest savages of the human race would peruse the daily accounts of the present doings of the civilized world and also what the verdict of future historians will be, when in the archives they encounter the records of this age. For years now the daily press has chronicled deeds of human beings, on the very borders of civilization, which far refined cruelty and savage barbarity equal the worst in the annals of man. The accounts of cannibalism in Africa and Indian tortures on this continent are more than equalled by official reports of the methods in vogue in Armenia. Of the former it may be said that they have slain their thousands while the Turks ruthlessly have snuffed tens of thousands.

But the Turk alone is not conspicuous in this age for inhuman methods. Advice from the Philippine islands, where Christian Spain has had an opportunity of demonstrating the ennobling power of modern civilization, now prove that the condition there is little better than barbarous. The Spaniards torture and kill the unfortunates that fall into their hands, and the rebels retaliate in kind. No quarter is asked for, and none is given. It is not war, it is wholesale murder that is going on in one of the most beautiful spots of this earth, that might be an Eden, did not human beings otherwise decree.

On Formosa a similar condition prevails. The Japanese have for the last half a century been under the educating influence of western civilization, and now, by virtue of a war, they have obtained an island formerly not theirs, and they are devastating it with fire and sword. Their policy seems to be to exterminate the population in order to make room for themselves.

Is there any proof needed that something is radically wrong either with human nature or with human education as hitherto conducted, or with both? The daily records of carnage, of strife, of brutality, of selfishness, furnish that proof. For nineteen centuries the doctrine of the brotherhood of man has sounded upon earth, and from the beginning the decrees of the Almighty against the wanton destruction of life have

been promulgated. With what result? It may be doubted whether the condition was more deplorable at the time when, according to sacred writ, the Almighty regretted that he had given man an existence on the then young earth. "Am I my brother's keeper?" seems today to be the chief question of those entrusted with the highest power among the nations, and accordingly they all take the part of spectators of the terrible dramas enacted in various parts of the earth.

There is, however, ground for hope in this very fact. History teaches that at the most critical periods the Almighty always has interfered. This will undoubtedly be repeated. Day will follow night. The sooner the measure of iniquity is filled up, the sooner a re-adjustment will take place, and the next great chapter of human history will be brighter. There are already many signs of the approaching day, and the greatest of all is the opening up anew, as in ancient times, of communication between heaven and earth. That means a new era—the victory of right and the redemption of that which is good in human nature.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND AND GOVERNMENT.

In the West the remarks of President Cleveland are not received with as much favor as they might be or as they sometimes deserve, because of his attitude on the silver question. But notwithstanding his financial views, the President often gives some sound advice and advances fundamental doctrine which it would benefit the whole nation to heed. This was the character of much that he said on Thursday last at the sesqui-centennial anniversary of Princeton university. There the President stated that when the excitement of party warfare presses dangerously near the national safeguards; when popular discontent and passion are stimulated perilously near class hatred or sectional anger; when selfish interests prevail and the people are being allured from the path of duty, he would have the influence of the educational institutions of the land "on the side of religion and morality," and "would have those they send out among the people not ashamed to acknowledge God and proclaim His interposition in the affairs of men, enjoining such obedience to His law as makes manifest the path of national perpetuity and prosperity." And he added: "I believe it is not a superstitious sentiment that leads to the conviction that God has watched over our national life from its beginning. Who will say things worthy of God's regard and fostering care are unworthy of the touch of the wisest and best of men?"

No truer sentiment or more timely advice ever was uttered by any President of the United States than this admonition to look to the Almighty for guidance in state affairs. This nation was raised up by divine

power, and by that power alone can it stand. When the people reach a position that they will not acknowledge God and proclaim His interposition in the affairs of men, enjoining obedience to His law for national prosperity and perpetuity; when they abandon the conviction that the Almighty has watched over our national prosperity, and come to the conclusion that they have not needed and do not need Him, then the days of this nation are numbered; for the Almighty will establish His power and require the recognition of His authority in this land first and foremost among all the nations of the earth in latter times.

THE PIONEER POWER PLANT.

Mere words are an insufficient means of conveying to the mind the vastness of the enterprise now being established in Ogden canyon and valley. No description in language can paint the picture in its magnificence. A visit to the scope of operations and an inspection of the stupendous work that is being wrought out adds to the conception of what is being done; but it must remain for the future, when the manufacturing, agricultural and other enterprises great in themselves yet incidental to this greater one, shall be in full and healthy activity, to reveal its true grandeur and beneficence to the people of Utah, and to award its promoters the high meed of praise which belongs to them as benefactors of mankind.

The visit on Wednesday of prominent citizens to the plant of the Pioneer Electric Power company in Ogden canyon is an occasion for calling special public attention to what is being done. The description of the scene there, as given in our local columns yesterday and today, ought to bring renewed hope and faith in the minds of those who repose confidence in the future greatness of Utah as an industrial center in manufacture, agriculture, mining, and all the departments of productive labor in which human energy and skill find scope for development. In Ogden canyon, where for ages a large and beautiful mountain stream has poured its pure and sparkling waters into the valley below, the strength and the life in those waters is now to be harnessed and utilized for man's benefit, and the hour for the actual accomplishment of the work is at hand.

It was not until recent years that the wonderful developments in electrical science made possible the utilization of the forces of nature that for centuries have been lying dormant in that mountain gorge. But with those developments the marvelous possibilities now at hand came into clearer view. Men who have pioneered thought and action in the opening up to settlement and prosperity of the Rocky Mountain region, were inspired with comprehension of a grand project for utilizing the resources of Ogden river for the building up of this commonwealth and instituting an enterprise which would add a material store to the wealth, prosperity and progress of the State. The financial condition before them made the accomplishment of so great a task seem almost superhuman.