

Our own land has been preserved in unity and peace. The doubts and forebodings which racked many minds because of the vital issues raised in a governmental capacity have been brushed away by the wise, conservative action of the American people, who, proceeding in established form to ascertain the will of the majority, accept the decision and work unitedly to carry out that will, abiding the rules of established usage to make any change they may deem desirable. This submission to the will of the majority in matters of policy is a strong bulwark for the preservation of order and for national perpetuity and progress.

In respect to calamities that have come upon earth, through storm and flood, the fierceness of the elements, and other causes of disaster, the year also has been notable as surpassing any previous like period for the number and extent of these calamities. In that regard it stands a powerful witness for the scenes prophetically indicated to mark the latter times.

Taking the past as a basis of calculation, that which the future may bring forth may be deduced in a general way. That there will be a continuation of disasters, and judgments, and upheavals in nature, and that their force and frequency will be augmented, is a logical conclusion from all the facts at hand. That there will be also an increased development, among those who cultivate them, of the powers that operate for good, is equally certain; and the critical time in the conflict between the opposing forces is drawing closer, with the assurance, among those who comprehend universal laws, that ultimate triumph will come to the good. May each individual display the wisdom to view with care his own part, and therefore learn the lesson to make the future better, that as far as he is concerned the world's record will contain less sin and sorrow in the time to come than in the years that have gone before!

INFLUENCE OF MOUNTAIN AIR.

A recent issue of the London Hospital, a scientific health journal, discusses the influence of mountain air as a health invigorator and a prolonger of life. It says that by many the mechanism of the Alpine cure has been thought to be a mere matter of physics; that recognizing that phthisis is chiefly prone to occur among those who from their mode of life do not thoroughly expand their lungs, and that in the rarer atmosphere of high altitudes a much more complete expansion of the lungs is necessary, to obtain the same quantity of oxygen, than would be required in the denser air of the plains, the benefit of residence in the mountains has been attributed to a constant unconscious effort to expand the lungs more fully, and to the consequent greater interchange of air in its recesses.

Noting the fact that the marked enlargement of the capacity of the chest which is often found after a few months' residence in the high Alps, and the tendency to the development of compensatory emphysema around the diseased and contracting portions of the lungs, tend to show that this

theory is correct so far as it goes, our London cotemporary declares that still all who go into the Alps feel that there is something more than this in the mountain air, and adds that it has been shown recently that not only do the chest muscles adapt themselves to the new conditions, but that the blood itself becomes altered in response to the lessened amount of the more rarefied oxygen which each blood corpuscle can carry. The effect of this process of adaptation is that the red corpuscles multiply considerably while, according to some, the hemoglobin is also increased. In any case, the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood is increased.

Observing that it does not do to dissect a climate too much, or to attribute to one or two factors what really is due to the concurrence of many influences, the Hospital remarks that it seems probable that mountain air depends for its efficacy on many conditions besides its lessened density, such, for example, as its purity, its dryness, and its comparatively low temperature, combined with the intense solar radiation common at high altitudes; that these are the really important conditions, and that lowered barometric pressure is not everything, is shown by the fact that to get the full benefit of the mountains people must get out of doors, whereas the lessened density of the air should affect those indoors just as much as those outside.

No doubt the "mountain cure" which proves so effective for many afflicted people has important elements in the changes produced in blood by the more rarefied oxygen, as stated. But in the case of Utah there are still further advantages pointed out by the Hospital, and which require much outdoor existence to get the full benefit of, namely, the purity and dryness of the air, its comparatively low temperature, and the intense solar radiation. Nowhere are these conditions more perfectly combined than in Utah and surrounding states. Sylvester Velez de Escalante, who is said to have visited the Salt Lake valley eighty years ago, in September, 1776, wrote of the place, "Here the climate is so delicious, the air so balmy that it is a pleasure to breathe it by day and by night." Perhaps some day the people of Utah, from the children in the primary grades of the schools up to the oldest inhabitant, will be instructed as to what a glorious boon for good health and long life exists within easy reach, and will be induced to avail themselves of its benefits and pleasures as comparatively few now do.

THE CZAR AND THE POPE.

Elaborate preparations, it seems, are being made already at Rome for the reception of the czar and czarina, by King Humbert and Queen Marguerite, at an early date. It seems that the visit to Rome is planned chiefly for the purpose of giving the Russian emperor an opportunity of visiting the pope, and this interview is to be accompanied by most impressive ceremonies. The imperial state carriages are to be sent all the way from St. Petersburg to Rome for the use of the imperial couple in the parade from the

palace of the Russian minister to the Vatican.

What the object is of the meeting between the heads of the two branches of the Catholic church—the Greek and the Roman—is not known, but it is regarded as a most significant one, in view of the efforts of Pope Leo to effect a union. Most probably the Turkish question will receive the attention of the two potentates. Emperors do not throw the balls of the Vatican to satisfy idle curiosity.

It is recalled that the last occasion when a Russian czar visited a pope was about fifty years ago, when Nicholas I sought an audience with Pius IX and the latter exhorted him to relax the persecutions against the Polish Catholics. The emperor declining to make any promises, the pontiff in a rage called down the wrath of heaven upon his head, predicted his early death and drove him from the audience chamber. From that time forth the relations between the Vatican and the court of St. Petersburg were interrupted until they were resumed only a few years ago by the late czar.

WORKING FOR BIMETALLISM.

Friends of silver have noticed with some degree of satisfaction that efforts are being made in behalf of the white metal. Senator Wolcott, chairman of the Senate committee on international bimetalism, has now left for Europe where he will interview leading statesmen on the subject of a monetary conference, and it is not improbable that such a congress, were it called together, would lead to some practical result, the European governments now being more enlightened on the silver question than they were before the agitation in this country. The platform adopted in St. Louis pledges the party now in power to promote international bimetalism, and the people generally, we believe, expect that pledge to take some substantial form at an early date.

LED AS BY MOSES.

As the years go by, and there comes a better realization, in the light of history, of the great feat accomplished in transferring a whole people from the Mississippi valley westward fifteen hundred miles, across a desert, and locating them as a successful community in these mountain vales where there were no civilized inhabitants, and the adding thereto of an emigration from nearly every country in the world, students of prophetic history are coming to find in this event at least partial fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, where he says that the day should come that Israel no more should say the Lord liveth that brought His children out of Egypt, but that He liveth who brought His children from all countries whither they had been scattered. For the marvelous accomplishment of the nineteenth century is taking its place in history as a greater work than even the Egyptian and Red Sea incidents, when the full measure of its scope is considered. In