

ally and the government which adopts it particularly. Still, the socialists might do a wiser thing than become rampant or loud-mouthed anywhere.

BLOOD AT EVERY STEP.

A dispatch in this paper a few days ago referred to the civil war just breaking out in Samoa, and described how the discharge of a single gun precipitated the conflict. The *Samoa Times* for July 15th is just to hand, giving additional particulars of the struggle. One curious and bloody custom of the natives is alluded to and is worth mentioning here: When setting forth upon a warlike expedition they are obliged by their ancient rule to kill anything living that crosses their path—women or children not excluded; for if they neglect to do so they think it a sign that they will have bad luck. On the occasion of the recent outbreak, therefore, two men ran a long way ahead of the war party saying, "Please go into your houses." A boy neglected this injunction as they passed through one of the villages, and was only saved by the agility with which he got under a pile of timber in a bush. He afterward escaped along the beach.

PROTECTION AGAINST WIND.

The cyclone is one of those problems of the upper deep that are unknown in this region and we are altogether willing that this lack of intimacy should continue. We sometimes have a pretty stiff breeze but not amounting to much more than a gale and seldom even approaching a hurricane in violence; while a cyclone is as much more terrible than even a full-fledged hurricane as is the worst storm we ever had in comparison with our mildest zephyrs. The physical formation of the country is unfavorable to the engendering of great wind storms.

A writer of some repute, Frederick E. Hill, speaking of the discussions going on in the western states regarding cyclones and the terrible damage resulting therefrom, says that as an architect and a person of observation, he declines to accept the idea that natural forces possess supernatural power, or that it is useless to make preparation to meet any force which can be measured. He believes that it is possible to build structures which will defy cyclones, and the *Kansas City Star* indorses his position. There is certainly need of preaching the doctrine of strength in construction, for the tendency of late years, in "the cyclone belt" as everywhere else, has been towards lightness and slightness in building. The modern farm house on the prairie is a flimsy thing, compared with the ancient farm houses of New England, built of hewed timbers, fastened with wooden pins, as strong as the hull of a ship, which it took all the men in the neighborhood to "raise;" and in Kansas City, as in other western cities, it has been found necessary to regulate by ordinance the thickness of brick walls, so reckless are builders.

It is held that the proper thing to do is to adjust the architecture of a com-

munity to the natural conditions prevailing; and thus when people know that they are in a "cyclone belt" they should build low and strong. This would seem to require no argument.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The most, we think, that the bitterest of President Cleveland's opponents can say of him is that he is wrong in his judgment or mistaken as to the proper thing to do. They cannot justifiably say that he wilfully and designedly does or says that which he knows to be improper or invites disastrous results. In all his state papers, in his public utterances and his whole official conduct he has certainly evinced patriotism of a high character, the good of the country and what he conceives to be the welfare of all classes within it being earnestly and sincerely sought. That the people or a great body of them sometimes oppose, criticize and even condemn what he says or does is regrettable but still their privilege; but to denounce him personally, in view of his manifest candor and his lofty station, is unbecoming if not indeed unpatriotic.

The News presents its readers today with the President's message to the extra session of Congress, which will be found in its proper place in our news columns. It is not very long nor very brief, but from the first word to the last there does not seem to be superfluity or redundancy. The sentences bear the unmistakable evidence of care and thoughtfulness in their compilation, as though the author knew that he was, in connection with the men whom he called together, engaged in a momentous and most trying duty. Never since the Southern members withdrew from Congress was a President confronted by a country as completely divided in sentiment and to as great an extent by geographical lines as now, and never was the cause of this drawing apart one that appeared more difficult of adjustment. To gratify one part entirely is to antagonize and embitter the other even if it should be no worse; and in such a dilemma, with such diverse demands and so many whose claims to consideration conflict and yet cannot be set aside, the duty of the Executive and Congress becomes a most trying one indeed.

The language of the message shows that there is no disposition to set aside or overlook any interest. That the President has different views from most of the Western and Southern people as to how their interests are to be furthered—that he proposes that they be conserved without violating sacred obligations and ignoring vested rights elsewhere—is undoubtedly true; but it is also true that he shows himself to be keenly alert as to those interests and only desires that all may be fostered without either having to be lost or weakened.

The President wants to retain silver as money; so do the people of the West. He thinks the best if not the only plan to do this and make it secure is to obtain for it practically universal recognition which can best be attained, he says, by withholding it from the

markets of the world until by its absence its virtues are made manifest; the people this way look upon that as too prolonged and too hazardous an experiment to try, especially when they remember that there was no trouble about silver maintaining itself alongside of gold until it was subjected to hostile legislation. Both claims cannot be upheld and let us hope that out of the contest now upon the land a compromise broad and equitable enough to secure the rights of the greatest number and the welfare of all sections without assailing or endangering any part may be the result. Let the reader peruse the message carefully and see if he does not think that some such arrangement, if not promised, is at least not forbidden.

THE SIZE OF CONGRESS.

The Congress which assembled yesterday, according to the figures made up, is the largest legislative body that has ever convened in Washington. The Senate has the same number of members as it had in the Fifty-second Congress; that is, it will have when all the members are admitted, but there is a gain of 24 members in the House, under the operation of the new apportionment, making a total membership in the latter body of 358. The first apportionment of the members of the House according to population was after the census of 1790, when one member was assigned to each 33,000 of population, producing a House of 105 members. The present apportionment is on a basis of 178,901 population to each member.

DUTY AND RED TAPE.

A curious dilemma, in which a Canadian official was recently placed through the fact that his religious scruples conflicted with the duties devolving upon him as a public man, has furnished a theme of considerable amusement to the secular press of the East and has not altogether escaped comment from sectarian writers. It appears that the mayor of Montreal, like the lord mayor of London, is an ardent and loyal Roman Catholic, and also like that worthy, he declines to let any official requirements lead him into actions which his religious superiors might criticize. So, when an Italian warship arrived at Montreal the other day, the conscience of Mr. Mayor was stirred by a conflict of duties; for on the one hand it was his official duty to receive this guest, with the officers it bore, with proper honor, and extend to the latter the hospitalities of the city; while drawing him the other way was his loyalty to the pope, whose relations with Italy are somewhat strained, to put it mildly. Finally the pope won, and the mayor printed a letter in the newspapers in which he said, in effect, that Italy had treated the pope badly, and that he, as a devoted supporter, could not forgive such treatment, and therefore could not receive or take part in any hospitalities extended to the vessel's officers and crew.

This would seem to have carried satisfaction to the perturbed bosom of