

plans by which it could be effectually accomplished. If those suggestions had been carried out, all parts of this city would have to-day the benefits of a sanitary system that would have cost but little but would have carried universal benefit, and the business part of town would have been relieved of those deposits of filth which are now complained of as though they were favored by the NEWS.

Sewerage for Main and adjacent streets and a dry-earth system of defecation for all other parts of the city, with competent inspection, enforced regulations, and the deodorization and change into fertilizing material of the waste matter, have formed the essential features of the measures proposed and advocated in these columns for many years. And it is useless for our untruthful opponents to try to deceive our friends or any considerable portion of the public, with gross falsehoods and misstatements of our position and our attitude on sanitary questions.

We desire the development and progress of this city and Territory, and will support any rational and proper measure likely to secure general prosperity. But we do not intend to favor any wild-cat scheme or personal project for the enrichment of a few at the expense of the many, nor close our eyes to the fact that all the desired. The obstructionists will have to reform or get out of the way, and the unrepentant and perpetual maligners will reap only scorn and contempt for their sowings of falsehood.

THE APIA DISASTER.

THE marine disaster at Samoa has, in some of its features, no parallel in modern times. Catastrophes at sea have, even within a space as limited as Apia harbor, been more extensive and appalling, but the vessels destroyed by the fury of the wind and waves have not been of the same class.

Two American war ships—the *Trenton* and *Vandalia*, totally wrecked, and the *Nipsic* disabled, the loss of life to our navy being more than forty, is a remarkable occurrence. Germany's share of the destruction is even larger than ours; two comparatively new and splendidly constructed war vessels—the *Eber* and *Adler*—completely extinguished, and another, the *Olga*, rendered helpless by being thrown upon a

reef, the storm entailing a loss of ninety-six German lives.

A number of theories have been improvised, in the absence of definite information, as to the reason for the escape of the English warship *Calliope*. The idea of superior seamanship is generally discredited, and all kinds of plausible but not very solid constructions are placed upon the fact to account for it. This indisposition to take the most feasible view of the matter is, to say the least, ungenerous. As against the theory of immunity because of seamanlike foresight, it is explained that the English vessel was the only ship which had steam up when the storm arose. This does not destroy the strong probability of superior discernment, as the getting up of steam was in all likelihood a result of the perception of the approach of the terrible blast, that the vessel might be ready to put out to sea and thus avoid the danger of being stranded.

One of the lessons to the civilized people involved in the Samoan trouble is in the line of magnanimity. The incidents connected with the boarding of the American merchantman *Constitution* by officers of a German war ship are still fresh. The latter expressed an intention of searching the Yankee ship for contraband of war. The plucky little captain of the *Constitution* owed a fight by clearing for action and stating that any active attempt to carry out the searching part of the programme would be met with resistance. The Germans then desisted from carrying out their purpose. Afterwards the American vessel was wrecked, in plain sight of the *Olga*, which offered no assistance to the distressed mariners, her officers and crew gazing with coolness and presumed with satisfaction at their struggles to save themselves and their ship.

Now, consider the course of the savage inhabitants of Apia. On the day following the great storm that destroyed the warships, the *Olga* was stranded and helpless. Mataafa and his men who had been fired upon by the guns of that vessel did not stand upon the shore and rub their hands with glee because of the calamity that had befallen their foes. Instead of following the heartless example of the Germans toward the *Constitution*, the savages, in large number, did noble and capable service in endeavoring to float the *Olga*. Thus, in a test of magnanimity, a barbarous people

proved themselves superior to those advanced in the scale of civilization.

The Apia disaster is singular from a number of aspects besides that associated with the character of the vessels destroyed. An incipient war had been in progress between factions of the aboriginal inhabitants of the islands, three of the leading nations of the world also taking a hand in the struggle, either actively or by efforts put forth to protect interests involved. A halt had been called, resulting in a suspension of hostilities, pending a resort to diplomacy. As if impatient of delay and anxious to continue the conflict, the elements took up the struggle where men left it, and in short order wiped out some of the formidable implements used by mankind in making war upon each other. It is but another lesson regarding the impotency of man and his contrivances, when seized in the grasp of the mighty wind and hurled and driven hither or thither as chaff by its resistless force.

EDUCATION IN UTAH.

A LARGE number of eastern journals have been misleading the public for several weeks in regard to education in Utah. This is nothing new in itself, but it is a new spurt in an old direction. The public are led to believe that "Mormon doctrines are taught in the public schools," and that "the Legislature of Utah, composed largely of Mormons, persistently refuse to make adequate provision for the support of public schools in which Mormon doctrines are not taught to the children." We quote from the New York *Independent* and the Boston *Herald*, the former a prominent religious paper, and the latter an influential secular paper, which are both copied from extensively by smaller sheets, and their utterances dished up in editorial form by a host of sessor editors.

The impression is conveyed that while some of the public schools here are supported by territorial funds because "Mormon" doctrines are taught in them, others fail to receive that support because "Mormon" doctrines are not taught therein. All this is false and injurious to Utah. We would not be surprised if the New York *Independent* has intentionally misrepresented this matter, because its bigotry and bitterness in reference to "Mormon-