

have not taken a position one way or the other. I have not bothered my head about it, as it is not my business as Governor, and I shall not take any part in the affair. I shall keep entirely aloof from the question."

Having been thus full in placing before the public a record of facts which demonstrate beyond question that a couple of men—with special reference to one of them—have been guilty of the most flagrant double-dealing; that they have used the money and influence of the Chamber of Commerce to cut the political throats of some of the men who contributed it, and consequently have placed the organization in a very trying position, what is next in order? The Chamber of Commerce has published the fact that these men are its agents to do its work, and not to take a political action against the interests of any of the members of the body. Unless the Chamber shall recall these representatives and repudiate their partisan doings, the association itself will stand before the public as participator in an offense against fair-dealing and common decency.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN KANSAS.

THE following noteworthy statement of the results of allowing women to vote and hold office in Kansas, is put forth by the *Chicago News*:

"Oskaloosa, Kan., has lived under 'petticoat government' for a year. The mayor and all the members of the city council were women. Now they have retired from office, giving way to masculine successors whom they helped to elect. A dispatch from Oskaloosa says that the women 'leave the city with improved streets, better walks and more of them, a better moral sentiment as to Sunday observance, a prohibition of offensive stock exhibitions, and a full treasury instead of an empty one.' Evidently the spirit of reform has brooded over Oskaloosa of late. The dispatch further asserts that the women's administration 'has been as good as the best, and much better than the average. They have shown great firmness, and a decided disposition to have their own way in official life. They retire with the good-will of a large majority of the people.' When these women took hold of the municipal government a year ago the city was in debt. Now it is out of debt and has money in the bank. With improved finances, improved streets, and improved morals, it is in a position to testify to the value of 'petticoat government.' Other cities in Kansas have reason to be thankful this spring that women have the right to vote at municipal elections. Their ballots were given to the best candidates in almost every instance. At Russell, for example, the women defeated the whisky element's candidate for police justice and selected a prohibitionist. Though Oskaloosa has reluctantly said farewell to its 'alderwomen,' the city of Edgerton has chosen a complete set of female offi-

cers after a hotly contested fight. During the coming year its mayor will be Mrs. W. H. Holley; its police justice, Mrs. Thomas Greer; its councilmen, Mrs. S. F. Ewart, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Nat. Ross, and Mrs. Brown. Probably they will follow the example of their sisters of Oskaloosa and add to the glory of their sex by demonstrating 'the value of a municipal government run by woman power. If Chicago had a woman for its mayor it is not likely that the gamblers and the proprietors of the whiskey-shops would be able to control her.'

"RUSSIAN STUDENTS AND NIHILISM."

UNDER this head the *New York Tribune* has the following apparently logical statement. It shows what danger might come from merely intellectual education, unaccompanied by religious restraints or useful employment:

"Under ordinary circumstances any attempt to obstruct education and enlightenment would constitute an act of almost senseless barbarism. Without accepting, it may be useful to recount the arguments officially put forward in Russia at the present time in defense of the retrograde policy of the imperial administration. The object which the latter proposes to attain by restricting access to the universities and high schools is to diminish the vast number of college graduates, who, being unable to obtain employment which they consider worthy of their scholastic attainments, become discontented with their lot, embittered against both government and society, and form the kernel and backbone of the Nihilist movement. Among the sudden and advanced reforms inaugurated by the late Czar after his accession to the throne in 1855 was one which practically rendered education even in the highest branches of science almost entirely free. As the expense was merely nominal, liberated serfs, petty tradesmen, and poor artisans made it a point to send their sons to the college and university with the conviction that successful studies would necessarily involve lucrative and influential appointments in the service of the government. Unfortunately, the government service was, and has continued to be, crowded with the sons of the wealthier and more aristocratic classes. It was entirely closed to Jews, and utterly unable to meet the multitudinous demands of the candidates for employment. Russia is as yet so poorly developed as regards trade and manufacture—agriculture constituting the principal national industry—that the students could find no career open to them. The absence of any technical training at the university rendered their services unavailable in connection with the progress of Russian industry, and they were too proud of their classical and scientific accomplishments to condescend to follow the humble pursuits of their fathers. Without profession, without regular means of existence, and dangerous on account of their unemployed learning and knowledge, they became the nucleus of the Nihilist party, with the object of obtaining through an overthrow of the existing order, both of government and of society, the means of livelihood which are now denied to them. At least 90

per cent. of the Nihilists brought to trial during the last fifteen years have belonged to the student or college graduating class, and in almost every case they have been the sons of either some peasant or petty tradesman. The late Count Tolstoi was the first to realize the peril to the monarchy which was constituted by this vast body of highly educated men without employment or means of existence, and held that it was unreasonable for the Government to afford gratuitous instruction and training to the very persons who were destined to become its most dangerous enemies. During the reign of the late Czar he attempted in vain to restrict the educational system, so far as the higher branches of science were concerned. It was not until two years ago that he was able to enforce his ideas, and to issue an imperial decree debarring the masses from access to the universities. It was projected at the time to organize for the lower classes a system of technical and trade schools for instruction in the various forms of manual labor. But these have not yet been established. Since Count Tolstoi's death last year his policy has been continued with undiminished vigor by the present Minister of Public Instruction, Count Delianoff. Decrees destined to restrict education follow in rapid succession, and have led to the present student riots, which the Czar has taken as a pretext for closing all the universities of the empire. Mlle. Tchebrikova, in her recent public letter to the Emperor, likened the new educational policy of Russia to that practiced by the Spartans when they deprived their slaves of their eyesight, and stigmatized it as being equally barbarous. The comparison is a good one. The distressing state of affairs which has been made the excuse for such reactionary measures on the part of the Russian government is truly deplorable."

GLADSTONE AND THE CREATION.

GLADSTONE, in spite of declining health and the burden of years, is vigorous in intellect and strong in faith, and demonstrates as he approaches the end of his earthly career his right to the title of The Grand Old Man.

He has recently written an able defense of the beginning of the Book of Genesis, against the attacks of the skeptics, taking the true ground, namely, that it is neither a poem nor a philosophic disquisition, but a revelation from God to show man his proper place in the scale of creation and what his Maker has done for him.

From the brief notice of his argument, which has come by cable, it appears that he takes the ground that "the days of the creation were neither solar nor geological." This is correct, as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith. There are many things connected with the story of creation, as told in the first chapter of Genesis, which are not comprehended by the critics, and they often indulge in flights of fancy not warranted by the text.