

fore abnormally heavy. Now a change is imperative. The law requires that all property be taxed at its fair cash value. Since the financial depression the price of real estate has gone down; but on the assessment rolls much of the land in different localities now is ranked far above what it would bring on the market, or what the owner would be glad to dispose of it for. A fair cash value means that now, with the reduced price, the assessment of real estate also will come down. The probability is that the rated prices of land used for cultivation will go still lower, and that holders will cut still farther the figures at which they will dispose of such property for cash when they want to sell. With this same probability comes the accompaniment of reduced value on the assessment rolls; so that the outlook is that ere long the assessed value of real property in the State will be based on its value for the uses to which it can be reasonably put, and thus will be more equitable towards the holder who is actually utilizing his land than a valuation under speculative conditions possibly can be. When this point is reached there will be taken one step that brings the State nearer to the equalization of the burdens of taxation than it is at present.

#### SPAIN AND TURKEY.

The most reliable report, probably, published for a long time about the status of the Cuban insurrection is that given by an alleged Japanese spy and intended for his government, although it found its way first to the office of Captain General Weyler. It represents the Spaniards as inactive, though superior in numbers to the rebels, and states that the general is so busy calculating his profits that he can find no time for an actual campaign. It concludes with an intimation that the time has come for Japan to seize the Philippine islands, which, the report says, can be done in the same way that France occupied Madagascar.

Spain, only a century ago one of the mightiest of the kingdoms of the earth, is now suffering from a condition that seems to threaten it with dissolution. It is struggling to keep the still remaining colonies from which in earlier times it brought home untold wealth. Notwithstanding her immense sacrifices, Cuba is being converted into smoking heaps of ashes. Her soldiers die from fever or are slain by the insurgents. The time apparently must come when the struggle will cease for lack of money and men to carry it on, and in these straits, a power but yesterday emerged from a condition of barbarism, is seriously contemplating the advisability of seizing another of Spain's chief colonies. What a change in the period of a brief century!

No less remarkable is the situation in eastern Europe where the Turkish empire, once the terror of the world, is slowly but surely crumbling to pieces. The recent butchery of Armenians in Constantinople, when a number estimated at about 5,000 persons were sacrificed on the altar of fanaticism, has so turned the tide of public opinion among the sultan's staunchest allies that Lord Salisbury has found it

prudent to announce the withdrawal of English support from the Porte. The representatives of the powers are preparing to defend themselves and the foreigners against possible attacks on their residences, while the liberal Mohammedan element is clamoring for the dethronement of the ruler, which probably means that he is no longer safe in his own palace against the poison or the dagger of the assassin.

Spain and Turkey! The extreme west and the extreme east of the European continent in the convulsions of death! Yet the former was once the leading power of that part of the globe, and before the exploits of the other all Europe trembled. Are there not indications of an approaching day of judgment upon old conditions and those who played leading parts therein? It certainly furnishes subjects for reflection that these two countries nearly always, even in their day of highest glory, were the homes of the two extremes of fanaticism that once met in mortal combat. One, the cradle of the inquisition with its tortures and sufferings inflicted on its victims; the other spreading Mohammedanism with sword and fire; and both may by this time have had an opportunity to very nearly fill up the measure of their iniquities.

#### RETURN TO THE GOOD RULE.

A feature in which the public district schools have been held by many persons to be superior to private or denominational institutions, is the perfect opportunity afforded the parents by the former for keeping close watch over their children's punctuality and progress. This is done by a simple system of monthly reports upon a card issued by the teacher, which the child is required to bring back promptly, with the signature of the parent or guardian; failing in which, the teacher's business is to visit the family and ascertain the cause of the omission. A truant or disappointed pupil is thus compelled to obey the proper regulation, and the parent is enabled to scan month by month the work and advancement of the child.

Many of the denominational schools which formerly had not adopted this plan, have recently done so and, we believe, with good results. Strangely enough, some of the public schools have abandoned it, whether at the dictation of the trustees or at the caprice of the teacher we cannot say. This latter proceeding seems to us to be an unwelcome departure from a good rule. Of course the system of parading each month each pupil's excellence or demerit, especially if done in a public way, might be made a great evil to the school as a whole and a source of undue pride or jealousy or other injury among the children individually. But every one with the judgment and intelligence that characterize the capable teacher would be able to prevent these effects by preventing their cause; while the main benefit—the furnishing to the parent every facility for knowing exactly what his child is doing in school—is far greater than any risk of injury that can reasonably be expected. To

say that parents who want to know how their children are progressing should visit the school or examine the teachers' or trustees' records, is but begging the question. Thousands of parents who are sincerely interested in their children's welfare cannot conveniently take the time to do this as frequently as would thus be necessary. We insist that it ought not to be required of them. If they have a right to the information referred to, as we claim they have, the teacher whom they pay ought to be required to furnish it to them.

#### MISSIONARY SUBSCRIBERS.

Elders in the mission field who, being subscribers of the News, fail to receive it by reason of change of address or from any other cause, will please direct all letters pertaining thereto to the business department of this paper. In the large mass of correspondence which comes to the editorial department from various mission fields, a note of change of address or failure to receive the paper is liable to be overlooked; whereas, if there were a separate note enclosed, addressed to the business management, it will receive prompt attention. Frequently presidents of conferences, especially in the Northern States, send in their regular correspondence a list of the names and addresses of Elders, with the request that the paper be changed to the new location given. These lists being for publication, go to the editorial and not to the subscription department, hence either give additional trouble or are liable to be passed by. When there is a list intended to secure a change of address for the copy of the paper that is being sent, or when it contains new names which are to be added to the subscription list, it should be separate from that intended for publication, and should be addressed to the proper department to receive prompt consideration. A little care in this respect will avoid delay and disappointment. The attention of the office at Chattanooga is specially invited to this, that future missionaries may have the information necessary to insure their getting the papers they should receive.

#### THE WIND'S MAD DANCE.

Farmington, some sixteen miles to the north of this city, has heretofore enjoyed an almost undisputed monopoly of all the great winds that blow over or near the bosom of the Great Salt Sea. But Farmington's honors last night were divided—the Davis county wind center had abundant company. The capital city received such a shaking up as it has not had in many years, while in the Junction city, disaster was coupled with injury, and many thousands of dollars worth of damage are reported as the result of old Boreas' frolic.

Sorely a stiffer and a more prolonged wind has not visited the Great Basin in many moons. A ride through the streets of Salt Lake City this morning, even along the much traversed thoroughfares on which the street cars run,