

a few pointed questions. Suppose the \$5000 house was built at a time when silver was at a premium over gold—only a few years ago—and those who furnished the materials and labor would naturally rather have had the white than the yellow metal; measured by gold and paid with gold, the owner would have rejoiced in the possession of a domicile which to the world cost him \$5000 but to him in reality cost a few hundreds less, wouldn't he? Then, suppose again, coming down a little later, we find the law-making power by an infamous trick striking out the money function of silver and declaring gold to be the only measure of values in the country, so that gold not only overtook but passed and distanced the other metal, causing the latter to become a subject of dicker and trade—that would reverse the owner's situation altogether, wouldn't it?—so much so that his \$5000 residence, instead of costing him less than that would cost him considerably more when the payments were made, while the building itself has shrunk in value proportionately with the shrinkage in silver. He thus loses at both ends of the transaction, the result being that instead of having a \$5000 house for \$4500 actual outlay, he has a \$4500 house for a \$6000 outlay—hasn't he? That is about the way the demonetization scheme has worked throughout and while we are supposing cases let us suppose it as we have presented it, this being much nearer the way the status actually is than any other. The "repudiation" is the other way around, the act of injustice shifted from the people to the government where it belongs.

An eastern paper friendly to silver—a rare bird indeed—commenting upon the above extract says: "By the same token the men who bought government bonds to prosecute the war ought to be satisfied to have the bonds redeemed with the same sort of money that purchased them,"—that is, greenbacks, but the very suggestion of such a thing would be pronounced a phase of disloyalty. There is a little too much obstinacy in the monetary situation.

### REPRESENTATIVE RULE SPREADING.

It seems that the recent uprising in Belgium accomplished something more than a temporary unsettling of things and drawing the attention of the world for a moment. It appears that the kingdom, among other things, has been liberalizing its electoral system and making the right to vote more general, and that qualifications therefor are less stringent than formerly. An act recently passed by the Belgian house of deputies and which is known as the Nyssens electoral law, provides that every Belgian twenty-five years of age will have one vote, irrespective of any property qualification; every Belgian having attained the age of thirty-five, or being married, or a widower with children, or paying a tax of five francs per annum, will have two votes. Possession of a certain amount of landed property or a university degree will entitle the holder to a third vote.

It thus becomes the case that the voting power of a man of education and the possession of a certain competence will be three times that of a mere workman. The scheme is generally regarded as only a step on the road to universal suffrage, but a correspondent of the London *Standard* maintains that the recent reports of impending revolution were manufactured in the newspaper offices and obtained no credit among well informed persons.

The same correspondent says: "One of the most gratifying features which marked the recent disturbances is the admirable conduct of the civic guard. Unlike the national guard of France, who allowed themselves at Paris and Lyons to be disarmed by the commune, the Belgian civic guard are prepared to risk their lives in defense of property and order as well as liberty. Belgium has come out well from this crisis, and all the friends of peace must be gratified at the result."

The tendency of all nations toward republicanism is as steady and sure as that of a glacier toward the sea. In some cases it is also as slow, as in the case of Russia and all the unlightened powers. But it is moving and nowhere at present more visibly than in Belgium and Spain. With advanced education and improved incentives to thought and culture, the belief that crowns are hollow haubles and their wearers expensive and for the most part useless figureheads grows and strengthens, and eventually those who hold to such principles must prevail.

### A LETTER THAT NEVER CAME.

By the arrival of the long-looked-for missive, the News is spared the necessity of urging further upon Governor West and ex-Delegate Rawlins the virtue of patience in the matter of the letter mailed in one of the hotels of Washington, D. C., and only just now received in Salt Lake City. For ourselves, we have always felt that there was plenty of reason to believe it would reach its destination; that is its writer, in the common course of events; because it is not to be supposed that the gubernatorial mail can be trifled with without peril, and the instance will doubtless be of value equal to all the annoyance it has cost if it shall do no more than demonstrate the unreliability of hotel mail-boxes for the acceptance of official communications.

We are candidly of the opinion however, that Mr. Rawlins has just cause for complaint against Uncle Sam's postoffice department. This is not the first time his mail matter has gone astray. We speak advisedly in saying he seems to have been quite as unfortunate in the miscarriage of letters written to him as in the mysterious mal-transmission of letters written by himself. There is no need to repeat the history of the communication addressed to the Governor of this Territory, notifying him of the writer's resignation as Delegate to Congress from Utah; the public know all that anybody knows about it—it is emblazoned on history's page and made familiar by parody and song.

But we have exclusive knowledge of another "letter that never came," and here are the facts about it:

Readers of the News will remember that just prior to the election last November this paper contained a brief sketch, in parallel columns, of the candidates before the people of Utah for their suffrages as Delegate to Congress: Hon. Joseph L. Rawlins, Hon. Frank J. Cannon, and Hon. C. E. Allen. In the case of the two latter the matter was prepared by friends of the gentlemen, and we published it as received. In the case of Mr. Rawlins a representative of this paper had to write the article, because the Democratic candidate declined to do it or suggest a friend to do it for him; his first refusal being on the ground that he had never received the editor's invitation to do so, and his final refusal, when visited by a reporter with a copy of the editor's letter, that he didn't then care to have anything to do with the matter.

That letter, which so strangely missed the gentleman, is now in our possession. It is dated November 1, 1892, and is plainly and, we flatter ourselves, gracefully written; it reposes in a clean, strong envelope, addressed in a fair round hand such as editors alone know how to use: "Hon. Joseph L. Rawlins (Personal), care of Chairman County Democratic committee, Provo;" said envelope bears a bright-colored, closely-adhering 2-cent stamp, and the stamp of the local office here showing that it was received for transmission at 2 p. m., November 1. Without referring to the history of the campaign we recall that Mr. Rawlins was in Provo that day and if we remember rightly he was to speak in Lehi the next day; at any rate he was, or was reported to be, doing his final stumping in Utah county at the time.

Well, he told the News reporter that he had never received the letter; and we supposed the chairman of the county Democratic committee of Utah county had either mislaid or forgotten it; we never dreamed that mail for a gentleman so well-known as Mr. Rawlins, and particularly when addressed to the care of so active an organization as the Democratic committee of Utah county, could lie in the Provo office uncalled for. But such is the fact. About the middle of February an official envelope from the dead letter office of the postoffice department at Washington was received addressed, as per the heading of the letter which it enclosed, "Editorial Rooms, DESERET, EVENING NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah." There was the Rawlins letter, there the envelope with its bold, round address, and there in characters of red the fateful word, "advertised." Mr. Rawlins hadn't called for it, neither had the chairman of the county Democratic committee at Provo, and the latter gentleman evidently had no postoffice box.

In view of all this, we should have felt justified in renewing the admonition to patience on the part of the Governor and the Delegate, coupling it with the suggestion that if the Governor doesn't call for his mail he ought at least to read carefully the list of advertised letters as published each week in the News.