

are remains to be ransacked for collection, then museums for State schools should receive the benefit of the collection as an educational feature. The people of San Juan county are not to be blamed in this matter, but they would be greatly benefited if the rest of the State would take some interest in gathering and preserving the prehistoric relics of that region for the good, from an educational standpoint, of present and future generations. Other people, and schools and colleges elsewhere, place sufficient value on these relics to make searching for them profitable, but it is not so in the leading cities of this State.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

All the pomp and splendor and rejoicing that the British nation is capable of are being put forth in the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the coronation of Queen Victoria. Not can it be said that the honor being shown to the royal ruler is in mere form and outward show, for deep down in the British heart is a strong and abiding love for the girl-queen of sixty years ago, whose subsequent career of noble motherhood and womanhood has added to her crown diadems a more priceless value than can be found among the gems of the mineral world, and has given to her a power among her people that armies and navies could not wield. The British queen is trusted and revered by her people with an affection not realized by people unfamiliar with the home life and sentiments of those who dwell in the British Isles and in the colonies that give political allegiance to the Imperial government.

Often it has been asserted that in a constitutional monarchy like Great Britain, the royal ruler is merely a figurehead, subject to the statecraft of ministers and parties, and that the real ruler is the premier who has a large political following at his back. This is true in a degree in the ordinary affairs of the government, but there have been times in British history when Queen Victoria's will has been as absolute as that claimed by any czar or emperor; when the premier or the political party which would have ventured to antagonize her wishes would have been swept from power as with the biting blast of an east wind. Strange to say, the most prominent of these occasions have been when the queen stepped forth in the interest of peace, notwithstanding that the military arm or of the military nation over which she ruled was arrayed on the other side. The maternal affection, kindness and wisdom which Queen Victoria has displayed in her family as well as national affairs have been an ideal before which British sentiment has bowed with the most humble obeisance; and to the lasting honor of the queen it may be said that her kindly efforts for peace have proved to be on the side of her nation's honor and safety, and have been marked by justice and mercy.

One means by which the queen has obtained a hold upon the affection of her subjects is the kindness and consideration she has shown to them as

individuals, regardless of their rank and station. An illustration of her course in this regard is shown in an incident related in connection with the present celebration. A short time since, an aged lady in rural England told her family that she intended viewing the anniversary ceremonies in London this month. Her family thought the idea preposterous. But the old lady insisted she was 88 years of age, and was in Westminster Abbey when the queen was crowned. Her family pointed out the impossibility of her paying for a seat anywhere on the six-mile route; but she replied that she would write to the queen, and write she did. Her respectful letter related the old lady's good fortune in witnessing the coronation, and the services ten years ago; and appended was the veteran's name, which had come down from the era of the Norman conquest. The queen made a cordial and gracious reply, and stated that a window in Buckingham Palace had been reserved for the old lady on the day of the great parade. Of course the incident was published throughout the land, and the British heart bubbled over with expressions of love for the good Queen Victoria. By the way, there is a lady now living in this city who, when a girl in her teens, attended the queen's coronation services.

It is said that after the anniversary celebration is over, Victoria will abdicate in favor of the Prince of Wales. Possibly she may do so, as he is pretty well advanced in years, and his habits have not been such as to insure a life as long as his mother enjoys. Yet there is some doubt of the queen surrendering the royal prerogative as long as she feels competent to wield it; for the British mother-queen has never shown any inclination to be ruled over by others, though she often deferred to others' wishes. Yet if she does retire at this time, there are many others than the British nation who will feel that it is not to a wiser, more generous, hearted, or trustworthy sovereign, though he be her own son

THE SELF-DESTRUCTION MANIA.

The current number of Popular Science Monthly has an article on self destruction, which contains some interesting statements. Noting the fact that suicides in this country have increased 35 per cent since 1880, it asserts that the chief cause therefor is the growth of a nervous, disordered temperament in the American people, although the immediate incentives usually named are insanity, heredity, financial reverses and domestic complications. As to checking the suicidal tendency, it is insisted that sympathetic efforts to improve the environments of the foolish and unfortunate are the only ones that may be expected to avail anything.

Regarding the time when suicides are most frequent, it is pointed out that in that period year when the sufferings of the poor and sick are least, when employment is most readily obtained, and when the pleasure of living should be highest, suicide is most frequent; in all countries the months of May, June and July give the greatest number of self murders. Drunkenness is the most active agent

of degeneration toward this crime; but it is among the petty and not the grave offenders that the greater number of cases occur. Suicide and education increase at an equal rate, the suggested reason being that wherever civilization is highest the struggle for existence is fiercest, life is most artificial, and there the most failures of the human race are met with. Mental derangements are credited with causing one-third of the suicides that occur, and man is more prone to self murder than woman. But there is pointed out one unfortunate feature connected with the movement for an equality of the sexes. It is that in the matter of suicide woman is getting nearer to man's record as she approaches the equality referred to. The conditions of city life are credited with increasing the proportion of suicide, and newspapers which publish details of how such crimes are committed are blamed for being a potent factor in increasing them through the effect, on the imitative faculties, of the publication of such details.

The article referred to points out that what is known as the liberal religion of today, with its loose views and disbelief in future punishment, is practically worthless as a preventive of suicide; but family life is looked to as a means whereby there could be prevented much of this great wrong. This latter claim is based on statistics as to the proportion of suicidal acts within and without the family relation, which are summarized as follows:

It has been found that in a million of husbands without children there were 470 suicides, and in the same number with children there were but 205. Of a million wives without children 157 committed suicide, as against 45 with children; widowers without children, 1,004; with children, 526; widows without children, 38; with children, but 104. These figures are eloquent pleaders in favor of family ties as conservators of life. They prove distinctly that man must love in order to live.

While making all due allowance for the acts of persons who are mentally irresponsible for their deeds, it is an incontrovertible proposition of ethics and true religion that suicide is murder, and merits punishment as such in the administration of divine justice. The hope in eternity for the deliberate suicide is precisely the same as for the deliberate murderer, and partakes of the heaviest penalties of eternal judgment. It should be a part of the ethical training of every individual to look upon the commission of the crime with an abhorrence that bars out all condonation therefor, because of its awful effects to the hereafter.

QUESTION OF WATER RIGHTS.

We have received from a Payson correspondent an inquiry regarding the power of that city to dispose of the water in certain reservoirs constructed and owned by the municipality. If there are no other circumstances to be considered than those given by the correspondent, the reply would be that the city has the right referred to. But the probability is that there are many other circumstances that necessarily