

the nineteenth century, in civilized America, is indeed startlingly horrible. It is enough to cause one to exclaim, "Whither are things drifting?"

It would be reasonable to presume that the most sweeping calamity of its class that has occurred within the boundaries of the Republic from its beginning would make a profound impression upon the minds of men; especially upon those on the ground and able to take in the awful character of the visitation. Yet in that waste of desolation, where lie the putrid bodies of those who were swept out of existence with terrible suddenness, men employed presumably in endeavoring to bring order out of the chaos produced by the flood are engaged in a fierce dispute. Capital, represented by contractors, and labor, represented by workmen, are at loggerheads. Feeling is high and discontent rampant, while drunkenness holds high revel among all the men who can obtain the means of intoxication. Breaches of the peace and free fights occur by night and day. In the light of such aspects under such uncommon conditions, it may well be asked whether our civilization is a success or a failure?

One thing that strikes the thoughtful mind in connection with this subject, is that such events as the Johnstown flood have no reformatory effect upon people in general. Indeed, reformation from outward causes is not frequent. The process is not as a rule produced through the skin, so to speak, but from internal operations. Occasionally outward circumstances are useful in bringing about a change for the better—when they give a stimulus to the interior operation, resulting in repentance. This latter effect is not apparent in the general phases of society at Johnstown. These conditions indicate how the matter will stand in a day not far in the future, when the judgments of the Almighty will visit the inhabitants of the earth, and yet they will not repent. On the contrary, "men will curse God and die."

A STORY ABOUT STANLEY.

ALL kinds of romantic stories are being hitched on to Henry M. Stanley. The latest is that he was disappointed in love, a young lady of New York City, to whom he was engaged, having given him up without warning while on his second mission to Africa, and married another man. This caused the ex-

plorer to droop and lose heart, a condition which fitted to his surroundings exactly, and afterwards, when the tender was made him to head an expedition in quest of Emin Bey, he accepted it without hesitation and almost without condition.

This story would seem to derive color from the fact that the Bey having been found and extricated some time ago, Stanley continues prowling around among the wilds and fastnesses of interior Africa, apparently aimless but doubtless still making discoveries which may become useful to the world of science and the world at large after a while.

When last heard from he was at Usalalla, a provision supply station, indicating that his work, so far from being accomplished, he seems to consider only fairly under way.

The "woman in the case" in this instance appears to have engendered a great deal of misapplied energy, as the same degree of persistence and tenacity in a more fruitful field would certainly have led to something greater and of more immediate consequence than merely incidental and desultory results. Meantime, Stanley remains an object of decided interest.

THE HAYTIEN SITUATION.

THE Haytien situation is not so satisfactory to lovers of peace as the news manufacturers tried to have us believe a few weeks ago. Then it was announced that the only means by which it seems serenity can again be induced to smile upon the Black Republic—that is, the conclusive defeat of one or the other of the contending factions—had been accomplished in the overthrow of President Legitime and the occupation of Port au Prince by the insurgent Hippolyte.

The war, so-called, has been sawing along, with trifling successes first on one side and then on the other, for a long time now. The fact that no decisive battle has been fought, for the reason that neither party has men or money enough to make such a fight, ought to have been sufficient reason for rejecting the fabricated dispatch when it came; but it was believed as stated and the principal newspapers came out with startling headlines announcing the consummation so much desired. It seems that the Legitimists are as firmly entrenched within the battered walls of Port au Prince as they have been at any time during the rebellion; that

Hippolyte's fortunes are as varied and uncertain as usual; that peace is not prepared to locate on the island yet; and that the attrition and depletion of two semi-civilized armed mobs grossly miscalled a war will not cease just at present.

"Armies" in which there are more officers than private soldiers are not likely to be very destructive to each other in a numerical sense, but they can and do distract the body politic and paralyze a trade which, properly cultivated, would make Hayti a prosperous and eventually a wealthy nation.

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

THE power of judges in matters of contempt has been under consideration in Ohio, and a decision has been reached by the Supreme Court of that State which recommends itself to the common sense of the public. It is to the effect that sentences for contempt of court may be appealed from, and that the higher court may reverse the decisions of the lower when the punishment is too severe.

The power of District Courts to punish for contempt has been considered final, and defendants have been compelled to submit to penalties of fine and imprisonment that in some cases have been cruel, unusual and excessive. If there is no right of appeal from such judgments there ought to be. And when the laws of any State or Territory do not provide a remedy, in terms, legislation is needed to supply the deficiency.

It is not always that a judge is competent to pass on a contempt of court which is personal to himself. Judges are human and subject to like passions as other mortals, and sometimes are influenced by vengeance rather than justice, and to retaliate more than maintain the dignity of their office. They have been known to require witnesses to do acts which the latter could not perform with honor, or without exposing themselves to obloquy, and to commit them indefinitely to prison or until the witnesses would comply with their instructions. Such judgments ought to be subject to review by higher courts.

Of course every court must and ought to be competent to preserve its own dignity and authority, which should not be defied with impunity. This is beyond reasonable dispute. But witnesses and defendants have rights as well as judges; and supreme power over the liber-