

FEDERAL JURISDICTION. President McKinley wisely recommends congress to grant federal courts jurisdiction in all cases involving international rights which ultimately affect the federal government. The suggestion of the president was prompted by the lynching of Italians and the failure of local courts to punish the guilty parties. The sympathy of the community in cases of this character is always with the perpetrators of the crime and a conviction is therefore impossible. The federal government is however responsible to foreign governments for the safety and protection of their citizens who reside in this country. It thus assumes responsibility for the conduct of individuals without any power to regulate or control their acts. To maintain our standing among foreign countries as a law abiding people, congress should not fail to devise such legislation that will establish complete security to foreigners by punishing those who disregard international obligations. Until we make certain the conviction of our own citizens who violate treaty rights we cannot consistently try to compel China to punish those responsible for the killing of American citizens.

LEAD OUT. To educate a human being is to lead out, exercise and discipline his mental faculties. Fathers and mothers are the first in command of the great army of educators. It is their duty to lead out the intellectual capabilities of their offspring and to discipline and prepare them for the lessons and duties in the schools and in life just as much as it is the duty of a horse-breeder to halter-break colts and make them bridle-wise before testing them either for draft or speed.

The state should not relieve parents of their natural duties except where the parents are incapable of performing them. Free education at the expense of the state ought to be furnished—in so far as common schools go—to the children of all parents who are in too indigent circumstances to pay for tuition, and to no others. It is as much the natural duty and obligation of a parent to pay for the care, development and clothing of a child's mind as it is to pay for the food and raiment necessary for his bodily welfare. And when the parent pays for these things he examines their quality and sees to it that he gets, for his child, the worth of the money he pays out.

Now the rich and the poor are alike provided with free schooling for their children; and it is a question whether parents cooperate with teachers as

vigilantly and assiduously as they would if there was a direct charge—commensurate with the financial circumstances of each, and with the value of the service rendered by the teachers. It is a question too, whether the amount paid in taxes by the property holders of the commonwealth is not greater than an equally thorough system of education would cost if paid for directly. Why could not the indigent be provided with free schooling and those of the well to-do be schooled out of the funds of the parents directly?

There are no common schools now. They are generally very uncommon. In Nebraska compulsory attendance is lawful; but the law is seldom if ever invoked to force children into the schools. And in nearly every town and city in the state, there are scandals and favoritism charged up against boards of education and teachers year after year. In Omaha the expenditures have been enormous and the management of the public school funds flagrantly extravagant—if one may believe the public prints and the court records of that city. And in a proportional degree, school boards in many other towns in the state have been suspected or charged with similar malfeasance.

The state now buys all the text books and they are furnished gratuitously to pupils. And thus the right to own and take care of books and to preserve them in families as mementoes of childhood is abolished. Ownership in a book is a means of individualizing a child and a method of teaching a knowledge of values and of carefulness and economy. When the text books are bought and paid for by the parents they are properly preserved and appreciated. When distributed gratuitously by the state the idea of property in a book is not conveyed to the mind at all.

Whenever a government like ours, of the people, relieves parents of the responsibilities, as to their offspring, which Nature has imposed upon them; does not that government weaken itself as to its strength in the future? If it is best for the state to take charge of the mental development of children, from the age of five to twenty-one, why is it not best for government also to provide for their physical welfare? If the state ought to buy books for their heads why not boots for their feet? And if the fashion in boots changes as often as it changes in text books, the cost of caring for the two extremes of a pupil may quite equal the cost of all food and raiment for the other corporeal diversities and the boot agents and book agents may swarm in equal numbers, and with equal blandishments, no doubt, around all school boards in the state.

HAUNTED. Some of the prisoners in the jail of Otoe county have recently complained of weird and uncanny sounds as of howlings, wailings, shriekings and sobbings of convulsively perturbed ghosts. An investigation, by a psychologist of local repute, leads to the opinion that these phenomena are produced by reverberatory action against the courthouse walls of certain speeches made September 26, at Nebraska City by J. Ham Lewis, C. J. Smyth and the populist candidate for the presidency against the Argo Starch Works. The intonations and inanities of those speeches are reproduced with phonographic accuracy. Wind never dies. Those great and effective orations are rotund and can never be moribund.

THE SKELETON. The adage that there is a skeleton in every family closet is quoted a thousand times a day in conversation, in the newspapers and by actors upon the stage. But how many know the origin of the proverb? THE CONSERVATIVE is indebted to the San Francisco Call for the following explanation: "A soldier once wrote to his mother who complained of unhappiness, telling her to have some sewing done by someone who had no care or trouble. Coming in her search to one whom she thought must be content and happy, she told her what she wanted. The lady took her to a closet containing a human skeleton. 'Madame,' said she 'I try to keep my sorrows to myself, but I will tell you that every night I am compelled by my husband to kiss this skeleton of him who was once his rival. Think you, then, that I can be happy?' The inference is certainly to clear too need interpretation."

NOT CHRONIC. The patient of a quack doctor suffered from diarrhea for seven years and during that period had taken only the quacks prescriptions, because the eloquent charlatan insisted that the affliction was only "temporary" and not chronic. The recently avalanched candidate for the presidency, whom the populist nominated at Sioux Falls and the Kansas City convention, subsequently warmed over—has just given out the information that "the reverse" met with so unexpectedly on November 6, 1900, "is only temporary!" The same remark substantially, was made by a similar candidate in November 1896. But if defeat following defeat, day after day, and year after year, is "only a temporary reverse" what would constitute a chronic or permanent reverse? Many wicked gold standard citizens aver that the 1900 reverse is not "temporary" at all but absolutely eternal. Since when has there been a reverse so "peerless?"