

Washington has a good start in educational matters. The generous gift of the government of land in every township for the benefit of the common schools gives a foundation upon which the public school system may securely rest for all time if the gift be wisely handled. But, beyond this, the question of a higher education seems well settled. A number of years ago a generous and philanthropic citizen of Seattle, donated a tract of land in that city for a territorial university, and upon this site such an institution is now maintained. This tract is now in the heart of the city, and its value is estimated at half a million dollars. It is now proposed that with the joint consent of the legislature and the donor, the land be sold and the money realized therefrom be used as an endowment fund for the state university, an eligible site for which will be donated, covering a larger area and lying about two miles from the city. This proposition seems satisfactory and will probably be adopted. Washington will thus be splendidly equipped, both in its common schools and university, for giving its youth a good education.

There seems now no doubt that the Union Pacific will push its line through Southern Nevada to California, as has been asserted so often. Engineering parties are being made up for field work early in the spring, and at headquarters in Omaha it is the common talk. There does, however, seem to be reason to question the statement that the road is headed solely for Southern California. It does not seem possible that San Francisco can be passed by and a terminus made where not one-half the business could be secured that awaits it in the city at the Golden Gate. Its route through Nevada is directly opposite the best pass in the Sierra Nevadas on a direct line to San Francisco, and that it will reach out for that city is not doubted by men who view the situation critically. The Southern Pacific is preparing itself against this new invasion of its territory, and will next year build no less than four new branch lines in the great central valley of California.

If royalty and titled nobility go to the wall in England because of the repeated scandals with which members of the royal family and leading noble houses have been connected, it will not prove that royalty is any worse in our day than it was in the "good old times," but that the world as a whole is better. No one can read of the profligacy, cruelty and contempt for the rights of the lower classes exhibited in former times by the nobility, and not be convinced that anything now happening is mild in comparison, but the people have been growing, and it takes much less now to bring out a protest from them than formerly. If

royalty is overthrown it will be because it has not been able to keep pace with the people in their intellectual and moral development.

Senator Mitchell has taken the first practical step in the direction of excluding undesirable Europeans from our shore, by introducing a bill into congress by which the passport system will be adopted in this country. Every foreigner, immigrant or otherwise, who lands upon American soil must possess a passport from the authorities of the country from which he came. The time when America could be made a "refuge for the oppressed of all nations" has gone by. If we continue to do so we will soon become the worst "oppressed" of all and have no refuge to flee to. By all means let us close our doors to all but desirable visitors.

Reports of the massacre of a party of Siberian exiles in a most brutal—in fact a thorough Russian—manner incline one to believe the recent declaration that political exile to Siberia is to be abolished, and to the further belief that massacre is to be substituted. The time may come when the civilized governments of the world will consider it their duty to compel Russia to change her cruel ways, and let us hope that Secretary Tracy will get enough iron-clads ready so that Uncle Sam can take a hand in the good work.

Prince Murat has lowered his price and will accept Miss Caldwell's terms, trusting, as he naively puts it, to the pride of his spouse not to let her husband become financially embarrassed. This is by far the most disgraceful of all the cases in which America has added to her stock of second hand royalty. It would be well for the girls not to be in too much haste. If England concludes to dispense with princes, there will be a great addition to the crop thrown upon the American market, and prices will tumble.

Washington ladies having decided that décollette dresses will be worn at receptions, congress can resume work after the holidays and tackle the tariff question without fear of domestic complications to divide their attention. If ladies want to decollar their dresses, no one should object and the physician and undertaker should rejoice.

All Europe is holding its nose, not over the London scandal, but because of an epidemic of influenza. If they sneeze hard enough to send some of their microbes across the Atlantic to bother the beak of the American eagle, she may be compelled to lift up her voice in a shriek for liberty from European encroachment.