

the municipality. The transfer to the city, it is claimed, was defective, and the attorneys who discovered the alleged defect are trying to make money out of the transaction. An indignation meeting has been held and the conduct of these attorneys has been severely denounced.

It was given out that the original owner of the land was paid a thousand dollars by these lawyers, for the quit claim deed on which they expect to make such a big financial haul. We now inform our friends in Ogden that the original owner is ready to make oath, that all he received from these speculative attorneys was three hundred dollars. This should cut some figure in the settlement of the case, supposing the present owners intend to compromise.

In assessing the amount which each property holder shall pay to move the supposed cloud to his title, if any such assessment is made, the victims of this scheme ought to know just what it cost the schemers to gain this seeming lever to raise their fears. As the cost of this quit claim deed was less than a third of the sum pretended, the pro rata amount of blood money should be reduced proportionately, if any is to be paid at all.

We hope the property holders whose titles are said to be clouded, will not be in a hurry to pay a cent to the land sharks who are showing their teeth. Let it be demonstrated beyond doubt whether this scheme has any real foundation, before any money is paid over. We are strongly of the opinion that the present titles will be found good and sufficient. If so, the schemers ought to have only their labors for their pains.

RUSSIA'S PROPOSED CONQUESTS.

A GOOD deal has been written about Siberia, but the conception which the general public entertain of it, is very vague and indefinite. It is associated with horrors of all kinds in the mind of the average reader. It is a place of torture, of barbarous tyranny and of cruel brutality, according to authors who have traveled in it. However, it will soon be within the limits of civilization proper, and the philosopher, politician and tourist can see for themselves its mysteries and its marvels. A railroad is in process of construction which will extend from one end to the other of the whole length of Siberia. This, when completed, will be the longest continuous railroad in the world. Its trunk mileage will not fall far short of 5000 miles. It is being built by the Russian government.

Siberia proper is an immense coun-

try. Its area is 4,660,415 English square miles, and its population is not more than 4,000,000, so that every inhabitant of that country has over one English square mile to turn around in. Its greatest length from northeast to southeast is 5,600 miles, and its greatest breadth about 3,000 miles. The western terminus of this road is at Miask on the eastern side of the Ural Mountains, and the eastern at Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan.

The route takes in the principal towns of the country. It will strike the Upper Tungus River, and pass through Irkutsk, a city of 30,000 people. It will also cross the Amoor River, a navigable stream, and then strike in a straight line southwest to Vladivostok. The estimated cost of this road is \$183,825,000, but its value to Russia is simply incalculable. It passes through a country abounding in minerals, and wooded with the best kind of timber. Most of the region through which it will pass is adapted for agriculture. It will intersect four navigable rivers, and in this way its benefit to commerce will be immense. By this it places the whole northern frontier of the Chinese Empire at the mercy of Russia, if a conflict with that country should ever occur.

Western European countries regard Russia as a military power, straining every nerve to acquire territory by conquest. This project demonstrates the fact that Russia is cultivating the arts of peace as well as of war. And if the dispatches of today tell us that troops are being massed on the Austrian frontier, we also see that the troops of civilization are being massed for the conquest of Asia.

Annenkoff is the name of the engineer who has completed the surveys of this vast work, and who has demonstrated its practicability. For his country he has accomplished a greater feat than the general who occupied or will occupy Stamboul; and he has achieved much greater fame in the way of civilization and progress, than all Russia's generals combined.

"REV. SAM. SMALL."

It is well known that the religious mountebank who performs under the title of the "Rev. Sam. Small," having secured the position of President of the Methodist University which is to be established at Ogden, has been operating through the States as chief collector of funds for the projected institution which he nominally presides over. In order to arouse the sympathies and draw out the dollars of the "Christian" public, he has adopted the usual methods of these peripatetic religious

cadgers, and told stories about the "Mormons" so destitute of truth that they would have been worthy of the Father of Falsehood himself.

Recently there have been some unsavory reports about the financial methods of this Rev. retailer of slander, and it has been at length openly charged that he has failed, when called upon, to furnish any account of his receipts and expenditures, and that he and his family have been traveling and living luxuriously out of the proceeds of his money-gathering expedition.

These charges having reached the sleek and oily Small's ears, he has sent the following dispatch to the Ogden *Standard*, the editor of which is at a loss to understand why that paper should have been selected as the vehicle of Small's defense. It was probable because it has the largest circulation of any paper published in the Junction city:

Philadelphia, Pa., April 18.—The charges made by Hill and Franklin are the same malicious slanders that Hill retracted by telegraph March 26. I am moving for Hill's expulsion from the ministry and this last act by Hill and Franklin is an endeavor to bulldoze me. It does not succeed. I will not quit. I am ready for the fullest investigation of my accounts. I have done no wrong and have nothing to conceal or fear. I have perfect showing for every cent.

Signed, SAM. W. SMALL.

In addition to the above the following was received by the *Standard* at 1:30 this morning:

Philadelphia, April 9.—A telegram from Ogden, Utah, this afternoon, reported that a demand had been made upon Rev. Sam. Small to account for the funds collected for the Utah university, of which he is president. When asked about the matter, Small replied: "I am ready to answer to my authorities for all my acts. I have done nothing wrong; have nothing to conceal. I invite the utmost public scrutiny of all I have done and fear nothing in the results of any such investigation."

The "Hill" referred to in Small's dispatch is another performer of a similar stripe but much less ability, known as "Rev. J. Wesley Hill," who has made himself notorious in Ogden by stealing other preachers' sermons and delivering them as his own, and in the East by the utterance of similar falsehoods for a similar purpose as those dealt out by "President" Small. A *Standard* reporter having called on Hill for an explanation, on reading the above dispatches he made the following statement:

"That is only a fair sample of Small's ability as a fire-eater. I do not wonder that he squeals, especially since he has been caught in his own trap. It is a trite saying of his that 'The dog hollers that gets bit.' That being true, there is no doubt but what he is not only bit but badly hurt. The people of the whole country know how I have championed his cause, securing his election to the