

through the whole protracted ordeal the courts have maintained the most perfect serenity, deciding appeal after appeal without the slightest wavering from a direct course and devoid of any show of impatience. Every quibble that could be invented and every legal objection that could be urged were listened to and respectfully considered, and all opposition is disposed of probably forever by the brief announcement that Messrs. so and so "were executed by electricity at 5 o'clock this morning." In New York at least "hanging is played out," but electrocution for murderers has emphatically come in.

PUBLIC OFFICE A MORAL TRUST.

THE day of awakening seems at last to have come over the courts in their method of dealing with official thieves. John Barlsey, while Treasurer of the city of Philadelphia deliberately robbed the city of sums which at the time his rascality was discovered aggregated \$237,500.

Upon his conviction he was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary for the crime of malfeasance in office, and in view of the fact that he had appropriated to private uses \$237,500 of the public money, he was fined precisely that amount, or in other words was commanded to return what he had stolen.

In passing sentence, Judge Wilson observed that the time had come for scoundrels of his class to be given due notice that they held a moral as well as pecuniary accountability to the public employing them. The filing of bonds as required by law was not all there was to their contract. They placed likewise on file as security for good behavior their personal honor, the violation of which they must understand was a more serious offense to the public than the forfeiting of their bonds. When they accepted a public trust their personal honor became a public property, the depreciation of which affected not only the concerns of their particular term of office but affected in great measure the relations of their successors for many years succeeding. Their malfeasance brought therefore hardships and embarrassments, which could not be estimated in dollars.

Abstractly speaking the judge proposed to demonstrate for once that while the commission of crime was necessary proof of criminal intent, punishment was not only for the doing of wrong but for being a scamp. We are not quoting Judge Wilson literally;

but interpreting, so to speak, the spirit of his remarks.

If this salutary lesson to official thieves could be repeated in the cases that may follow, the public ought soon to experience a relief from the gangs of practiced robbers that are storming the public offices the country over.

SPURGEON THE PREACHER.

DISPATCHES from England announce the serious indisposition of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, who has been for many years one of the most popular preachers in the British metropolis. Spurgeon's Tabernacle will remain a monument of the pulpit orator's success, long after he has passed to a sphere where he will reap the reward of his labors, and learn a more excellent way and a more perfect theology than that which he held and taught while in mortality.

Mr. Spurgeon's work in London commenced about forty years ago. He made his first great mark in Exeter Hall at one of the yearly religious gatherings. His sonorous voice, forcible manner and plain Saxon language, with his quaint similes and blunt expressions aroused an interest that overshadowed the efforts of all preachers at the time. He spoke, too, directly to the hearts of his hearers and he soon became wonderfully popular.

He gathered around him a congregation of devout Baptists, and the Tabernacle on the Surrey side of the Thames was erected, holding about seven thousand people and often filled on Sunday evenings to overflowing. He educated many young men for the ministry, organized various societies for home missionary work, and preached a good deal in the provinces on special occasions. His popularity has continued and though his manner, appearance and language cannot be called refined, he has always been from the first a great attraction in religious circles.

Mr. Spurgeon's religious views may be measurably learned from the following, which he signed a short time ago, with others whose names are also appended and who formed a kind of Union for the maintenance of orthodox Christianity, as they understood the term:

"We, the undersigned, banded together in fraternal union, observing with growing pain and sorrow the loosening hold of many upon the truths of revelation, are constrained to avow our firmest belief in the verbal inspiration of all Holy Scripture as originally given. To us, the Bible does not merely contain the Word of God, but is the Word of God. From beginning to end we accept it, believe it, and continue to preach it. To us the Old Testament is no less inspired than the New. The book is an organic whole. Reverence for the New Testament accom-

panied by skepticism as to the Old appears to us absurd. The two must stand or fall together. We accept Christ's own verdict concerning "Moses and all the Prophets" in preference to any of the supposed discoveries of so-called higher criticism.

"We hold and maintain the truths generally known as 'the doctrines of grace.' The Electing Love of God the Father, the Propitiatory and Substitutionary Sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ, Regeneration by the Holy Ghost, the Imputation of Christ's Righteousness, the Justification of the sinner (once for all) by faith, his walk in newness of life and growth in grace by the active indwelling of the Holy Ghost, and the Priestly Intercession of our Lord Jesus, as also the hopeless perdition of all who reject the Savior, according to the words of the Lord in Matt. xxv. 46. 'These shall go away into eternal punishment,' are, in our judgment, revealed and fundamental truths. Our hope is the Personal Pre-millennial Return of the Lord Jesus in glory.

C. H. Spurgeon, A. G. Brown, J. Douglas, M. A., W. Fuller Gooch, G. D. Hooper, J. Stephens, M. A., Frank H. White, J. H. Barnard, J. Wesley Bond, W. H. Broad, J. A. Brown, M. D., J. R. Cox, R. J. Farley, A. Ferguson, Finley Gibson, Charles Graham, J. W. Harrauld, W. Jackson, W. R. Lane, H. O. Mackey, F. B. Monti, J. S. Morris, H. Sinclair Paterson, M. D., Frank M. Smith, Charles Spurgeon, J. L. Stanley, H. E. Stone, W. Thomas, George Turner, W. Williams."

We do not purpose just now to critically examine at length this confession of faith, as it would take more space than we have at our command. But we will simply say that the notion of the plenary inspiration of the Bible, as "an organic whole," is a fast dying absurdity; that it is nowhere claimed by the book—or collection of books—for itself; that "the justification of the sinner, once for all, and the hopeless perdition of those who go into eternal punishment, are inferences of men and not taught in the Holy Scriptures; and that it is marvelous that men who claim inspiration for every word in the Bible should reject the doctrines of 'baptism for the remission of sins,' of the laying on of hands" for the "gift of the Holy Ghost," and of the present enjoyment of those miraculous gifts, which are among the promised "fruits of that Spirit."

However, it is altogether probable that Mr. Spurgeon is sincere in his profession, and that he preaches according to his light; and it is certain that his departure will be a loss to the cause of morality, temperance and charity, and that in the great day of justice he will be rewarded according to his works.

It is supposed that a grass has been found that will thrive in the American desert. It is called Hungarian brome, the more sun and hot wind it gets the better it grows. This is the thing for the Colorado desert.