

lined his system and they are satisfied that the underground method is entirely feasible and practicable.

The principal objects of this system as stated by its proprietors are:

"First—To insure the presence of a continuous and uniform current throughout the entire length of an underground conduit in the operation of the electric motor of a railway car or other vehicle.

"Second—To maintain the conductor for conveying the current through an underground conduit or subway, substantially dry and free from moisture, in order that electric leakage may be obviated."

Two particulars are essential to a perfect system of electric distribution, whether above or beneath the surface, and they are, the maintenance of a high standard of insulation and the dissipation of moisture in, about or around the conductor. The systems already tried for underground work have proved failures because they were lacking in these two provisions. According to Mr. Douglass, his system has solved the problem of distribution and dissipation of moisture by a process of circulating heated air through a main conductor.

A SOUND OPINION.

THE decision of Judge Barch in the Atwood case, the full text of which we publish today, appears to be good law, even if one of the parties is made to suffer an injustice. It is pretty clear, from the evidence in the case, that the deceased intentionally omitted the name of Florence from his will. What his motives were cannot now be determined. At any rate the court could not inquire into them. The facts that the will is silent as to the petitioner for a share in the estate, and that the decedent intended to say nothing about her in the instrument, have been made evident and therefore there was nothing left for the court to do but to decide against the petitioner.

Under the laws of Utah she would have been entitled to her share, though she was the daughter of the decedent by a former plural wife (because her paternity was established and had been acknowledged by the father), and though her name was omitted from the will, but for the evidence that the omission was intentional. An omission from the will by mistake, or when it does not clearly appear to have been designed, does not, under our statutes, bar a legal heir from inheriting.

The advice of the Judge to the proponents we think was given in the spirit of fairness and wisdom. What the heir cannot claim by law should be granted to her from justice or from generosity, and from a desire to relieve the departed from any appearance of wrong to the living. What is property when compared to a clear conscience? and what honorable person will hold on to money that equity whispers should rightly belong to another?

WHEN trusts and syndicates have cornered everything on earth, they will doubtless turn their attention to the air and water. The sea, it is claimed, produces more food per acre than the land.

CROWDED TENEMENTS.

NEW YORK boasts of having the most densely populated area of any city in the world. There are several sections in that city that will average 230,000 people to the square mile, but there is one small block in particular in which 3,532 people live. This block is bounded on the south by Second street, on the north by Third, on the east by Avenue C., and on the west by Avenue B. In one small tenement building in this block live twenty-two families, comprising 116 persons. The structure is only an ordinary brick of five stories. In that building a family of four persons rent two rooms in which are domiciled also seven boarders—three men and four women. That is, eleven persons, nine of whom are full grown, live, eat, sleep, and dress in two small rooms of a five story house in which 116 persons altogether are located. The rents paid for the tenement in this structure aggregate \$175 per month.

A curious reporter who made an investigation of this particular house also inquired about the family arrangements of the eleven persons in the two small rooms. For sleeping, the whole floor space is utilized. Mattresses are spread at night, and in the morning they are folded and stowed away on the fire escape. None of the occupants speak a word of English. It is said they are all healthy and vigorous.

In summer time the roofs of these houses are used for sleeping, and sometimes the sidewalks and stoops of the house. There are at present five persons in hospitals who rolled from housetops while asleep. The lives of two were saved by falling on clothes lines, the three others were saved by falling on bedding piled on the ground floor.

The ground floors of these tenements are occupied as stores and shops of various kinds. There is a dancing academy, a barbershop with the sign "tonsorial artist who cuts ladies' bangs for 15 cents," a little shop in which "chewing gum for the 400" is sold, and a butcher shop in which sickly looking meat is vended.

This particular block enjoys the distinction of being the most thickly populated area of the size of any place in the whole world civilized or uncivilized. It is worth a visit from the student of sociology and in fact more than a visit. The appearance presented by the exterior of the building is grotesque. In the fire-escapes are piled bundles of bedding, from every window are extended lines holding wearing apparel of all descriptions, and hanging over the window sills are faces of all nations and displaying all moods, from the melancholy hypochondriac to the careless and jolly fellow whose manner proclaims: "Let us eat and be merry for tomorrow we die."

New York is perhaps the most cosmopolitan city in the world, and although it is the actual though not the political capital of this great republic, has as broad distinctions of class and as wide extremes of wealth and poverty as can be found in any part of the globe.

ONTARIO, Cal., May 28.—Two light earthquakes occurred here this morning.

"ANCIENT AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS."

THE June number of the *Popular Science Monthly* contains an intensely interesting article on Ancient Civilizations of America. In many respects it corroborates the statements of the Book of Mormon, which is an authentic record of the peoples who lived on this continent in former ages. The following is an extract from the article, which is from the pen of Prof. S. Newberry:

"Long before the Northern whites had entered the valley of the Mississippi, and had discovered the first traces of the mound-builders, the Spaniards who invaded Mexico and Peru found there a civilization in many respects superior to their own—a civilization which extended throughout Mexico, the Isthmus, and the west coast of South America to the frontiers of Chili; that had produced cities that rivaled in extent and in the magnificence of their buildings those of the Old World—cities that were lighted at night, guarded by police, that contained palaces, temples, courts of justice, schools of law, medicine, music, and literature, with parks, aqueducts, fountains and artificial lakes.

"The cities were connected by graded roads, on which were stations and relays of messengers for the rapid transmission of intelligence. The population was divided into various castes, including royalty, nobility, different grades of traders and artisans, and finally slaves. The country was cultivated with much agricultural skill, and in the towns were workers in gold, silver, copper, and bronze. Their military organization was thorough and effective, and strategic points were guarded by fortifications, some of which have had no rivals in magnitude in the history of the world.

"This civilization, imposing as it was, at the advent of the Spaniards had passed its golden age, was then in its decadence, and has since, chiefly by brute force, cruelty and rapacity of the European invaders, been nearly driven from the earth."

There is no discrepancy between the foregoing, and the following from the 6th chapter of III Nephi, descriptive of the situation of the people of this division of the world shortly after the beginning of the Christian era, at which time there existed a government of the nature of a republic:

"And it came to pass that there were many cities built anew, and there were many old cities repaired;

"And there were many highways cast up, and many roads made, which led from city to city, and from land to land, and from place to place.

"And thus passed away the twenty and eighth year, and the people had continual peace.

"But it came to pass in the twenty and ninth year, there began to be some disputings among the people; and some were lifted up unto pride and boastings, because of their exceeding great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions;

"For there were many merchants in the land, and also many lawyers, and many officers.

"And the people began to be distinguished by ranks; according to their riches, and their chances for learning; yea, some were ignorant because of their poverty, and others did receive great learning because of their riches."

It will be observed that all the conditions of a great civilization mentioned by Prof. Newberry are named in the quotation from the Book of Mormon.