

which was left as a deposit. Thus it happened that as fast as the panic-stricken Teutons brought their lucre from the savings bank to Mitchell's it was sent back again to replenish the outgoing stream, and they were none the wiser for it. Their money was safe in either place, and lack of confidence was at the bottom of their fright, as it is at the bottom of nearly all financial scares.

THE CITY WATER SUPPLY.

It requires no more than half an eye and no more than common intelligence to see and understand the importance of this city's securing all the rights it can, and maintaining all it already has, to the waters flowing within or adjacent to the municipal boundaries. Under the most favorable conditions, the corporation does not own or control one drop more than it needs; there are times of year, and there doubtless will be many entire seasons, when the utmost economy will have to be employed to save some sections from actual want. If this is the case with our present population and area, how much more important becomes the question when we contemplate the future, with the increased consumption that it is sure to bring!

With every legitimate endeavor, therefore, to preserve existing rights and, as opportunity may offer, acquire new ones, all citizens should be in hearty accord. The case is one in which politics cuts no figure; an official who thinks it does, and acts upon that opinion, ought to be released summarily. On the other hand, the public ought to lend cordial encouragement and support to each one who realizes the importance of his duty and is energetic in fulfilling it; also to aid in the enforcement of such ordinances and regulations as have a bearing on the subject. Without water this city could never have been built. Without it we could never have grown to our present proportions. Without the assurance of it for the future we cannot make any more growth. For itself the News is accordingly prepared to call any reasonable expenditure of means in the obtaining and care of this fundamental and all-important source of existence a wise and statesmanlike use of money.

A MOST MYSTERIOUS CASE.

Unless the prosecution have something more than has yet been shown, and obtain permission to reopen the case and present it, the jury should acquit Lizzie Borden without leaving their seats. In this we make full allowance for being at a distance and uninfluenced by the sensational and emotional developments of the court room; but assuming that the facts upon which alone the jurors must come to a conclusion as to guilt or innocence are given to them, there is nothing but acquittal in the case. There may be some doubts engendered by reason of the ambiguous and inconclusive character of some of the testimony, but these of course are an element of negative strength for the prisoner,

most of the rest is strength of a positive nature so far as a trial can go.

This is one of the most mysterious cases that ever engaged the attention of a court and jury. The mystery, however, is the smallest part of it, because there is more or less of that element in every great trial and we have become used to it; but we have not yet become used to such a condition of things as either turning a human monster loose red-handed upon the public with no chance for redress thereafter, or having the terrible thought besieging the mind that in our sovereign capacity we have persecuted and harassed and made of life a loathsome burden to an innocent and unoffending woman. If only the trial could bring with its result a certainty that the Borden girl is innocent or guilty, it would be hailed with satisfaction throughout the land; but it is likely to bring nothing but that element of greater doubt than ever—guilt not not proved but suspected as strongly as before.

AWAY OFF.

It is claimed by an Eastern paper that there is a man in a high public position who ought to be dealt with in some way calculated to impress him with a sense of his wrong doing. The man spoken of is the superintendent of the United States mint at Philadelphia and his name is O. O. Boobyshell. His offense consists of writing a letter recently to a gentleman in Indianapolis in which the writer declared that an ounce of silver or gold contained 5780 grains and that one thousand ounces of pure silver will coin 1805 standard dollars. There must have been a slip of the pen or something, for certainly a man in so responsible a position could never make such a mistake as that. In Troy measurement there are 480 grains in an ounce, and the fact that the substance spoken of happens to be silver would make it neither more nor less; anyway it would not make it so much more as the superintendent is alleged to give it. There is also a misstatement as to the number of standard dollars that 1000 ounces of silver will coin, the correct figure being 1293, not 1805 as he has it. He then goes on to say:

There are in each standard dollar of silver 371 1-4 grains of fine silver.
There are in 1000 ounces of fine silver 5,760,000 grains. Therefore—
371 1-4 grains : 5,760,000 grains
: \$1 : \$1551 plus.

This prompts the paper spoken of to comment as follows:

Now let us look at this. There is just one true statement, namely, that a standard dollar contains 371 1-4 grains of pure silver. Everything else alleged is erroneous. (1) In 1000 ounces of silver there are not 5,760,000 grains, but just one-twelfth of that amount, viz., 480,000 grains. (2) The division of 5,760,000 by 371 1-4 does not give \$1551 plus, but \$15,515 plus. Here we have the ridiculous blunder as to the number of grains in an ounce of silver repeated, and then incapacity even to make a simple division correctly. A correct division would have revealed to the superintendent his extraordinary blunder as to the number of grains in an ounce—at least we think it would.

It is surely bad enough for those

who uphold the rightfulness of silver to be money without limit other than such as is imposed by the hard hand of nature, to be confronted by bigotry, false premises and selfish instincts; but to have to meet and overcome blundering, recklessness and falsehood as though they were legitimate "campaign methods" is a little too much.

THE "DEAD SQUARE."

Our savagely Liberal cotemporary closes an article on a local question thus: "The best way to do anything, whether buying a bill of groceries or obtaining statehood, is on the dead square." Truer words were never spoken or written, but the application is or should be much wider. It is not enough that we instance merely the fields of business and politics in which to give honorable purpose and correct dealing full play, for they should enter into every transaction of mankind. The victory that is won, the ground that is gained, through trickery or deception or even ambiguous tactics is apt to prove but the glaring and fleeting glow of chemical fire which surrounds a deed of heroism on the stage only to offend and nauseate the senses when the curtain has fallen. No man ever practiced deception upon his fellows that did not have to confront it to his disadvantage one way or another if he lived long enough; we do not believe that in any such case he did not realize at the time that he was bidding for an unsubstantial triumph at the price of ultimate loss, or that his own inward monitor which never sleeps and never looks in silence upon wrong doing failed him then or thereafter.

There is enough villainy practiced and preached in one of our general political campaigns to equal in criminal purport the slaughter of an army of men. No falsehood is too vile, no slander too base, no misrepresentation too great to be employed as weapons by those engaged in the work, whether they be in the cabinet of their party or in the open field. To be placed in possession of some false step, unsavory transaction or unfortunate circumstance of one prominent on the other side is capital rare and inextinguishable; it may be that the wrongdoing, so far as it might be, was atoned for and the evil itself repented of and turned from forever, but that figures not. The average political campaigner recognizes no law of limitations except, perhaps, in the case of himself or his friends. More than this: If any of the people or intimate associates of one conspicuous in the field or who is bidding strongly for preferment ever fell by the way or "came tardy off" in any transaction, this is made the most of to the aspirant's discomfiture in the absence of something direct and personal regarding himself. And all this is "politics"—the strategic means by which honesty has been made a fool and knavery a hero oftener than leaves have fallen from any tree in the world.

It is the same, sometimes, in dealing with communities and separate organizations of people. To have been wrong, albeit mistakenly and honestly so, once or oftener is to be in circumscription and distrust forever after.