

him as his merits deserve, is due only to our knowledge that his modesty would be embarrassed by such action. But this much may be said in all truth and soberness: From first to last the musicians acquitted themselves with distinguished credit, and if they have not given their friends at home a profounder appreciation of the talent we have had among us, they have at least taken the country by storm, and carried the banner of the divine art triumphantly from the Great Basin to the Great Lakes, and back to the mountain fastnesses again. They sang against the world, and the world acknowledges that whatever the technicalities upon which musical decisions are given, the Utah songsters came off with all the honor and prestige of glorious victory.

This much the News has felt to say by way of historically preserving the names of those to whom credit and thanks are due, in connection with this most courageous and successful journey, and by way of expressing gratitude from the whole community to the performers who have brought Utah to the near and friendly view of every people among whom music hath charms and sweet singing holdeth sway!

THE CATHOLIC PROBLEM.

The anti-Catholic agitation seems to be growing in this country. A Canadian, Mr. Cluff, is organizing "protective" associations in the East for the purpose—if he is quoted correctly—of fighting papacy with anything from ballots to bullets. Catholics are to be ousted from the schools and from all public offices. The army and navy are to be "protestantized," if need be by men who are ready to use the musket and who have sworn to be loyal until death. To justify the organization rumors are spread that the Catholics are forming secret military companies and that the pope has issued edicts to the effect that it is no sin to kill an American, and similar alarming and absurd representations, all of which indicate that the spirit of evil is abroad plotting mischief on a large scale in our midst.

The News has already plainly expressed its views on the Catholic problem and can only reiterate its former statements. It is to be not only regretted—it is a crying sin—that agitators there are who do not shrink from suggesting bullets and muskets as proper arms in a warfare, which should be of a purely spiritual and intellectual nature. It is equally regrettable to find the name of a religious denomination used as a war cry by political demagogues. It is high time to protest against such proceedings. All who still revere the fundamental principles of the teachings of the great Nazarene, and all who love the Constitution of this free country should unite in frustrating in its inefficiency an effort, to boycott American citizens because they belong to a certain church.

If the Catholics hold erroneous doctrines and, as is supposed, aim at supremacy, they should be met by truth. The pulpit, the Sunday school,

the press, theological institutes of learning, these are the fields where the battle should be fought. If Protestantism must discard these as inefficient and fight Catholicism with brutal force and the tactics of demagogues, and this in a country like ours, where the liberty of speech and press is almost unlimited, then let Protestants hide their faces in shame and the spirits of Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Wesley and Roger Williams weep in sorrow. For one thing is sure: if error cannot be overcome by truth, it can never be suppressed by force. That is to substitute error for error.

There was a time when similar tactics were adopted against the Mormon Church. In vain the persecuted Saints appealed to the country. Hardly a voice was raised in protest against the cruel proceedings of mobs led by unscrupulous agitators. Shall history be repeated, this time in the case of another religious body? The country's leading men may have erred in not declaring, years ago when the Mormon problem presented itself, that in the United States nobody shall be allowed to suffer on account of his religious belief, and errors are always likely to bear fruit. But wisdom would seem to cry out against the repetition of an error, the consequence of which, if the Catholics are involved, no one can easily foretell.

UTAH PLUS NEVADA.

As a sample of the logic with which the law-making body of the nation is regaled concerning the proposed admission of Utah to statehood as a rib of the moribund borough of Nevada, we take an extract from the Washington correspondent of a New York paper, who thus quotes Representative Oates of Alabama on the bill introduced by him September 18th for such annexation:

"I have been thinking over the subject a long time, and believe I have found the true solution of a vexed question. The plan is wholly within the power of Congress to carry out; there is nothing in the Constitution to prevent it. There is no way to destroy a state. That cannot be done; and yet the future of Nevada is a serious question. Its population decreased from 70,000 in 1880 to 42,000 in 1890, and there is no prospect of its recovering any part of what it has lost. On the other hand, if the silver mining industry be further diminished, there won't be 20,000 people in the state in five years. But it has two senators and a representative in Congress. Utah, just adjoining, has 246,000 population, and is not represented at all, except by a delegate with no vote. It is not right that Nevada should have such power in Congress, nor is it fair that we should keep Utah out of the Union. The objection has been made to admitting the Territory that at some time in the past a form of religion was in vogue there that did not meet with general approval. Well, now, I've provided in this bill that the constitutional laws of Nevada shall prevail until a new fundamental structure and code of laws can be provided in the regular way. The passage of this bill will solve the question what to do with Utah, and at the same time put life and strength into the veins of a decaying state. Besides that," Mr. Oates said jocularly, "prompt and favorable action may have an important bearing upon the silver debate in the Senate."

If it becomes a law those senators affected may quit talking and go home to see about their election."

FORGAVE HIM FREELY.

They have a compassionate city council at Phoenix, Arizona. On Tuesday, September 19, the municipal fathers met and elected a city marshal and chief of police to succeed W. J. Blankenship, who resigned because of serious charges made against him. The city had determined to pursue the marshal for his wrongdoing, which consisted of drunkenness and illegally collecting and retaining fines from certain persons of shady reputation. An investigation was ordered and the wheels of a vigorous prosecution set in motion.

When the accused was brought before the council he informed that body that he was exceedingly sorry to be compelled to acknowledge the truth of the charges, and said: "I have been weighed down with sorrow and trouble at the loss of my child, and drank very hard. I have not been myself at any time, and whatever I have done wrong was unintentional. I have never meant to do anything like that, but in my condition I am unable to account for this. I assure you that it will never happen again, for after this I will be myself. I took an oath today never to take another drop of liquor, and have made arrangements to take the Keeley cure next Monday."

Then the city councillors held a private session, and in their deliberations a feeling of pity and forgiveness for the accused absorbed all thought of inflicting punishment. The result of their conference is told in the following:

Resolved, That we, the City Council of Phoenix, after making a thorough investigation into the charges against City Marshal W. J. Blankenship for collecting fines illegally, do dismiss the same.

Who shall say that the action of the council was unwise? If the leniency they have shown should prove a means of encouraging genuine repentance on the part of an unfortunate man whom they might have sent to jail, how much nobler it will be than to have inflicted a punishment that could have had no better result. Mr. Blankenship is now in the position, by exhibiting his worthiness or unworthiness for the compassion shown him, to make definite choice whether he will pursue the upward path or continue on his downward course.

INVITE THEM TO UTAH.

During recent years there has been much inquiry by foreign nations regarding the system of irrigation which prevails in the West, and in the institution and development of which the people of Utah occupy the first place. Different European powers have shown sufficient interest to send representatives to investigate the system, and it is but a few weeks since an elaborate report on the subject was made to the Australian government by the commission which recently visited Utah and other sections of western