

the letter. Yet the crowding together of so many thousands, the absence of sanitary regulations and the tropical heat of the country are very favorable to disease.

But the really dangerous feature of the whole matter is the custom of offering sacrifices as a grand finale to the pilgrimage. When the black stone at Mecca has been kissed and the thirst is quenched by the water of the well Zemzem, in memory of Hagar's wandering in the desert, the devotees go to the mountain Arafat to listen to a sermon. In the valley Mina, where according to Mohammedan tradition, Abraham was about to slay Isaac, the great sacrifice takes place. Thousands of animals are gathered together. The wealthy pilgrims kill one camel or more. Some chalfie are said to have slaughtered a thousand of these animals. But even the poorest will sacrifice a sheep. And not only in this valley but all over the Mohammedan world the day is celebrated with sacrifices. It is the "great feast" or the Kurban Beiram, the "feast of sacrifices" of the followers of the oriental prophet. The result is easily imagined in places where the salt waves of the sea do not wash away the blood and the remains of the killed animals. The stench in a few hours becomes almost unbearable. And no wonder that the public slaughter places become the receptacles of dangerous germs that only need favorable winds to be carried over Europe and Asia.

In later years the Turkish and Egyptian governments have endeavored to prevent the danger by prescribing certain rules and regulations, but these do not go far enough. The effective remedy would be the establishment of crematories in the places where the sacrifices are slain, and we believe the sultan could easily be persuaded to have such erected, if proper arguments were used. The civilized world which is threatened by the cholera has a perfect right, not to compel the Mohammedans at the point of the bayonet to cease one of their religious practices, but to surround it with such safeguards as not to make it an incessant menace to the health of the rest of mankind.

MERIT ONLY SECONDARY.

The August number of *Good Form* contains another of those articles on Buffalo Bill, the Wild West show proprietor, which have had such ready acceptance from American and foreign periodicals and papers, and which by their maudlin fulsomeness has disgusted every real Western man beyond expression. The writer of the five-page advertisement (we can call it nothing else) which appears in *Good Form*, a magazine which by this proceeding singularly belies its title, varies the usual monotony of such screeds by telling us somewhat of Buffalo Bill's youth, but does not omit the murderous incident from which the scout took his name—the killing of sixty-nine buffaloes in one day. "He accompanied General Albert Sydney Johnston on his Utah expedition," says the fond chronicler, "guided trains overland, hunted for a living, was chosen by the Kansas Pacific railroad to supply meat to the

laborers while building the road, in one season killing 4862 buffaloes, besides deer and antelope; and was chief of scouts in the department that protected the Union Pacific." And now, might well have been added, he gets a glorious living out of his past and cannot tell a yarn too tough for tenderfoot sentimentalists to swallow.

As a matter of fact, Cody deserves far less notoriety as a scout than as a showman. No one would rob him of the glory, if such he deems it, of killing seventy great, lumbering, innocent buffaloes in a day, or of "picking off" Indians with his rifle just for the fun of the thing. But when it comes to the real business of the Western frontiersman, he has many living superiors, and scores that are dead. We wish his chronicler had said more about that Utah expedition of General Johnston's, and whether "Bill" was the guide who led that unfortunate column to its distress. It need scarcely be said that on that occasion he was out-scouted at every turn; and less modest men than he are fully able to cite date and circumstance of his being out-riden, out-generated, out-dared and out-shot. The substance of the whole matter is that with his glib tongue, his long hair, his skill with the rifle and pony, and his really extensive experience on the plains, Col. Cody has undertaken to make a living out of the gullibility and verandcy of the rest of the civilized world; and he is successful, not so much because of his own proved prowess or the estheticism of his show, but because he is shrewd enough to represent the characters of which effete easterners have imagined and dreamed, and concerning which they are most un-anxious to be disenchanted.

A COINAGE ARGUMENT.

The NEWS gives place today to a lengthy argument made before the Utah Democratic club in this city Saturday evening, July 29, by R. W. Sloan Esq., on the silver side of the great controversy that now disturbs the nation. Saturday evening, August 12 a counter argument from the standpoint of the monometallists will be listened to by the same club, and the NEWS will publish the speech or speeches on that side two weeks from today.

We need scarcely assert the belief that the absorbing interest which the question has excited justifies this much notice at the hands of the press. Every reader appreciates the fact as well as we do. But the NEWS has felt, and still feels, that the local community needs instruction on the subject, that there are two sides to it, and that there is much sound logic in support of each of them. We have accordingly invited correspondence from acknowledged champions of both sides, and had some hopes at one time that a discussion of the full merits of the case was under way. But from disinclination or some other cause the gold-standard men let their end of the argument drop—certainly it was not because of any unfairness on our part or that of their antagonists, or because there was lack of general interest in the theme. We are accordingly the more ready to welcome this op-

portunity to present the points at issue and the respective arguments; and today commend Mr. Sloan's speech, as we thus far in advance commend also that of his opponent who will be heard by our readers two weeks hence, to the thoughtful perusal and study of the community. Finally, we take occasion to say that the question of politics does not enter into our presentation of the matter at all. The usual division of favor as between the principles of Republicanism and Democracy or neither of them will scarcely affect the reader's attitude on the silver question. New lines in this instance will be drawn, altogether different from those with which we are more familiar in politics. And there is no doubt that when all the facts are in, the side which now considers itself the weaker will surprise the other side and be surprised itself by the strength and respectability of its following.

LET'S TO BUSINESS.

There is more dodging, shuffling and evading going on in the case of Superintendent of Waterworks Ryan, by himself and his apologists, than is consistent with the theory of innocence. First we are given a blank statement in opposition to the sworn accusation against him, the insufficiency of which being shown, a "counter" affidavit which counters nothing is brought out; and then, both sides having agreed that the courts are the proper tribunals to pass upon the matter, the one accused—falsely as he declares—proceeds to have his accuser arrested. Charging him with perjury is not directly resorted to; instead, the round-about method of making him answer to a complaint charging defamation of the official is the plan adopted. The court does not evidently think the matter of sufficient gravity to justify the exaction of an appearance bond and lets the defendant go on his own recognizance till 10 o'clock this morning, when a hearing was to be had, but it was continued till Wednesday.

The offense charged is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not more than one year, or a fine not to exceed \$1000, while perjury is a felony and punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a long term. On the face of the thing the resort to the milder charge seems to be a magnanimous proceeding on the part of a man who claims that another is so debased as to swear to a lie to injure him. But let us wait for the sequel and see whether or not there is some other reason for it!

THE DICTIONARY.

Our morning cotemporaries are having a little controversy over the proper place and potentiality of the dictionary. The NEWS is not going to participate in the discussion, but as the subject is sometimes brought up elsewhere and is always an interesting one, will venture a few words regarding it "all by itself." We all use dic-