

misery and to relieve others from the burden of charity, then murder for these purposes is equally justifiable. For if a suffering being really ought to take his own life, for the benefit of himself and others, and if he has not courage to do so, or is too ignorant to resort to that expedient, it would clearly be the duty of those around him to assist him and to shorten his sufferings by means of a poisonous drug, a bullet or a well directed stab. This conclusion is inevitable, and it needs no argument that premises on which a doctrine of murder can be built are wrong.

Human life is sacred. From the very beginning, when the Almighty taught His children to rule over the world and all things found therein, He plainly told them even the beasts of the field would be held accountable for the slaying of a human being (Gen. 9: 5). The reason given is, that man was made in the image of God. A murderer and a suicide then lays sacrilegious hands upon the image of his Maker. That is why suicide is and remains a great sin, whatever heathen philosophers may argue to the contrary.

NO DRINKS ON THE SCAFFOLD.

A custom that would be better honored in the breach than the observance has grown up around the method of a murderer's taking-off by the officers of the law which he has violated. We refer to the practice of allowing the condemned wretch, during his last hours of mortality, all the liquor that he chooses to ask for. It will be remembered that in the recent execution in this Territory, one of the first requests of the doomed man when informed that all hope of commutation of sentence must be abandoned, was for "plenty for good whisky." The precedent in such cases was doubtless followed during the remainder of Davis's stay in the penitentiary; the request was probably granted. Indeed, one report of his execution represented him as in an almost maudlin state of drunkenness. This may have been an exaggeration; but all the reports agree that even after arriving at the fatal spot and while standing upon the very brink of the grave, the miserable man's demand for liquor was least twice acceded to.

Now, we submit that it is a false idea of either duty or pity that prompts a compliance with such a request; and we do this the more readily because it is of record that the present U. S. Marshal for Utah showed extreme reluctance in yielding in the case under discussion. There is no reason why a creature that has been found guilty of murder should have his last hours made pleasant, or why he should be either stimulated to firmness or rendered wholly or in part unconscious for the fatal moment. In the case in point the last words of the criminal were foul, brutal, and disgusting in the extreme. Whether the liquor he had swallowed was responsible for any part of them, or at best served only to bring out the low instincts of that wretched heart, matters not at all. Had he been sent to his account without any sign or suspicion of intoxication there could

have been in this no reproach to any one save perhaps the pitiable and ill-balanced scribe who knew no better than to defile his columns with the obscene part of the narrative. But the law, which does not allow the administering of opiates or æsthetics to deaden the senses of the condemned, would seem also by inference to forbid the giving to him stimulants or intoxicants. At any rate we believe this interpretation will be accepted with general favor; and we are sure no officer of the law will be deemed guilty of cruelty or inhumanity if, to such demands as have been referred to, he resolutely turns a deaf and unwilling ear.

THE SCANDINAVIAN TROUBLE.

The Associated Press correspondent at Stockholm, in a recent dispatch, represents the feeling in Sweden as intensely bitter towards Norway, on account of the incessant agitation in the latter country for a dissolution of the union. The general opinion is, he thinks, that separation should be resisted even at the cost of war.

It is probable that the conservative party in Sweden are still clamoring or armed interference in the affairs of Norway, but it is nevertheless certain that the liberal sentiment is now so strong in Sweden that it would take much provocation to make such a lamentable event possible. The fact is that in both countries the sentiment in favor of a republic has steadily been growing, and at present the quarrel of Norway with the government is by a great many looked upon as a necessary preliminary to the final abolishment of every vestige of monarchical institutions on the Scandinavian peninsula. That is one reason why the war predictions are not likely to be fulfilled.

Besides, the experience of the Swedish armies in Norway in former times is not encouraging to those who otherwise might feel inclined to undertake an invasion. The country, with its numerous fjelds and fjords, is practically inaccessible to hostile forces, and it has an army in no respect inferior to any country of its size, while its population of sturdy farmers and fishermen are brave and filled with enthusiastic patriotism. The government of Sweden, after calm reflection, would hesitate in commencing a campaign that, even under favorable circumstances, would bring ruin to both countries.

The present trouble in Norway may be said to date back to the very day of the union with Sweden, Norway, when cast adrift by Denmark, of which country it was a province, wanted independence under a king of its own choice. But the powers of Europe forced its representatives to accept the Swedish king, an arrangement which the latter was to accept as a poor compensation for the transfer of Finland to Russia. The union thus established was never cordially accepted. And about the only visible sign of it at present is that the two countries have a common diplomatic and consular service abroad. In nearly all other respects the countries are as independent of each other as any two countries in the world. The Nor-

wegian radicals now claim that their country should have its own diplomatic and consular representatives in foreign countries. If they succeed, as they probably will, in electing a majority in the Storting, the question will undoubtedly be brought to an issue the coming winter, and the fate of the Scandinavian union thereby be decided; for there can be no doubt that the ultimate result will be to declare the throne of Norway vacant and the establishment of a republic will follow. For this purpose it is essential to Norway to have a diplomatic service of its own at the European courts and to have representatives who are able to work up a sentiment in Europe in favor of such a change.

In Sweden the Norwegian agitation is but little understood, as a general rule. It is looked upon as rather strange. Norway has during this century enjoyed the greatest prosperity and developed with gigantic strides from a destitute province to an independent country with vast wealth. The people enjoy liberty and self-government to the fullest extent. In some instances they are ahead of the Swedes. Hence the whole question assumes the nature of a puzzle on the eastern slope of the peninsula to those who fail to see that the tendency of the age is towards the establishment of democratic principles everywhere. Yet, it is probable that if the representatives of Norway decide on a republican form of government, the existing union will be dissolved without bloodshed. An offensive and defensive alliance would then probably be established between the two countries; and that would answer every purpose better than the present compact which has given rise to so much bad feeling and brought no particular benefit to Sweden.

BY ALL MEANS INVESTIGATE!

It may be premature to promise interesting developments as a result of the labors of the investigating committee talked of at last evening's session of the City Council in connection with the joint city and county building now nearing completion; but there is perfect safety in saying that if the investigation be thorough, there will be some discoveries that will make the taxpayers in general, and the honest, plain, humble class in particular, open wide their eyes in wonder.

Let the inquiry be searching, minute and complete! Let the charges and perquisites of the architects be looked into! Let the peculiarities of the abandonment of the contract, and the substitution of the "day's work" system, be exhibited to the public eye! Let the wages paid, the number and class of workmen employed—especially the present and recent item of foremen or overseers in comparison with the number of men under each one, receive scrutiny and publicity! Let that all-absorbing and unceasing avenue of multiplied expenses—"extras" and "variations from original plans"—be probed, explored and described! Let a great and willing and patient—but at last perhaps wrathful—community under-