

fied as the objects of derision. When he comes, however, to the actual meaning of the proposed provisions, he reasons forcefully and with courage; and from his standpoint makes a really admirable argument. One feature at least of the message is characteristic: there is no manifestation of a spirit of compromise or surrender—the idea being that whatever is wrong must not be winked at or encouraged, although there is the expression of a mysterious hope at the close of the document that some way will present itself in the near future for the adjustment of our monetary affairs in such a comprehensive and conservative manner “as will afford to silver its proper place in our currency.” In view of the fact that Mr. Cleveland called Congress specially together to repeal the Sherman law and approved their labors to that end, and that he has now disapproved of the only other silver legislation that has been attempted, it would be interesting to know just what he regards as silver’s “proper place in our currency” and how he would propose to put it there.

Meanwhile, it is to be expected that the agitation in and out of Congress will go on. The western men will probably cease to spend time and effort upon half-way measures, and the lines between the “goldites” and the “silverites” will be more sharply drawn. We suppose it is necessary that this sort of education should be had and that monetary debates and controversies will be still deemed essential to the interest of legitimate legislative history. And yet we cannot restrain the opinion that the cause of silver and the welfare of the country would be promoted by a more or less complete rest from the agitation for some time to come.

THE THREATENED WAR.

Last season there was considerable trouble between cattlemen and sheep herders on the plateau east of Grand Junction, Colorado, in which there were many threats against life and property, and in which the latter suffered severely, there being a large number of sheep killed. The statement was made that sheep owners who reside in Utah kept their flocks over in Colorado, and the farmers in Mesa and Delta counties, in the Centennial state, objected; it was also asserted that the sheep did great damage—a claim that was denied by the sheep owners.

Now comes the announcement in the Denver papers that there is imminent danger of another “war” on the Utah-Colorado line, and the statement is made that unless some action is taken by the authorities the militia will be needed within thirty days. It is claimed by the sheep farmers of Delta county that by the location of sheep by Utah men in Mesa county the headwaters of the water supply of Delta people are being ruined, and that the Utah sheep are introducing disease into their midst. Mr. Colby, of Montrose, as the representative of the Delta county men, has been making a statement to this effect to the state veterinarian, Dr. Gresswell, who will take steps to prevent diseased sheep from being brought into the state. Mr. Colby and

Mr. King, a Montrose lawyer, intend to proceed to Washington, it is said, to lay before the Federal authorities a petition signed by 2,000 persons, asking that the sheep owned by Utah men be kept out.

There is no doubt bad blood between the parties in the controversy, and it is equally certain that the statements made by the Coloradoans are exaggerated greatly beyond the facts. There is absolutely no danger of the militia being needed if the law officers do their duty in an impartial manner; but some people in Colorado seem to have a craze just now for calling out troops and threatening bloody work. If the sheep owners complained of were disregarding any law, they would be quickly arrested and severely punished. From the fact that there is no prosecution against them it would appear that they have not violated any statute, and if those who oppose them are kept within legal bounds there will be no trouble. It is alleged that the sheep owners are Mormons, and this statement is used in a prejudicial manner toward them. As a matter of fact, some of the largest sheep owners complained of are not Mormons at all, and these are the ones with whom the trouble has been and now is, and who have had hundreds of dollars’ worth of sheep shot down by the Delta farmers. They insist that they are entitled to keep their flocks on the ranges named, and tell a very different story to that related by Mr. Colby and his associates.

As for the trouble on the Utah-Colorado line, it is of the same character as that which exists almost everywhere in the West where the sheep are herded near cultivated districts or close to streams that supply settlements with water, and there are faults on both sides. Sheepmen are sometimes too careless, and the farmers grow angry and want the wool producers wiped out; the sheep complained of in this case occupy ranges which the complainants want for themselves. That is the substance of the whole matter. The difficulties that exist can and should be settled by fair and lawful methods. But to introduce into the controversy threats of war and religious prejudices, as is being done on the present occasion, is a piece of criminality which Coloradoans ought to be heartily ashamed of.

A POLITICAL PROPHET.

Reverend Andrew Jackson Jones, a colored brother of exceptional zeal in the cause of Christianity as he understands it, for some time past and at present still is engaged in the somewhat discouraging task of shaking up certain Ohio cities with dire predictions of impending calamities. He is locally referred to as the “Black Prophet,” and his followers themselves apply the term to him in all affection. As to his claims to the prophetic gift, it is asserted that he foresaw and foretold the Johnstown flood, the assassination of Mayor Harrison of Chicago, the result of the last presidential election, besides various other events in recent Ohio history; and now he comes along with the prediction that the American people have entered upon a most critical period of time,

and between this date and 1931 they will be subjected to almost unheard of woes and desolation. “Famines of bread, famines of water, earthquakes and destructive plagues, and storms which shall carry away multitudes,” are among the things in prospect, to be capped by the bloodiest war the country has ever seen. Pittsburg is to be consumed by natural gas, Chicago is to go up in flame and smoke, Philadelphia’s destruction is to be by wind, New York’s by business disaster, riots and the waves of the sea, while Cincinnati and other Ohio towns are promised the widest kind of an assortment of trouble and woe.

There is no portion of this gloomy program that is impossible of fulfillment; but the part that will excite the greatest doubt is the proposed termination and cure of these various difficulties, which in Rev. Mr. Jones’s view will happen in 1931 through the elevation of a colored man to the Presidency and his residence in the White House. The “black prophet’s” peculiar and present mission, therefore, is to proclaim the coming ascendancy of the colored race in America. The Republican party, he maintains, has shirked its duties since the war was over, and “now as a punishment the country has been given over to the devil for a term of years, with Grover Cleveland as a special ambassador to carry out the plans of Satan.”

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

In his religious crusade in California the noted Methodist preacher, Dr. C. H. Yatman, is startling some of the good people in that locality by informing them that they are not Christians in the true sense of the word, whether they are church members or not. He insists upon this declaration, and at a big meeting on Sunday evening explained that there was not one of them who had the witness of the Holy Spirit. He said going to church would not give it to them, for the devil attended religious meetings and found plenty to do; nor would giving money to the church do it, for saloon-keepers and gamblers often did more in that line than the average so-called Christian. Then, to clinch his argument he declared, “There is not a Christian in this tent tonight, not one; I do not except even myself.”

Perhaps the reverend gentleman was right; we know of no reason for doubting his statement. Certainly he must know his own position so far as receiving the witness of the Holy Spirit is concerned, and he probably could fairly describe his audience in that respect, since none questioned his arraignment, and he was acquainted with their general situation in religious matters. And possibly it was his knowledge of his own condition which prompted him to refrain from telling his auditors how to become true Christians; his exhortation to worship the Supreme Being by good deeds as well as words was, however, most commendable.

“What is a Christian?” is a question of sufficient importance to those who look to the good book for guidance to have it answered correctly and understandingly. Webster says that a Christian is “one whose inward and