

the "Moral Responsibility of Animals," in the June number of *La Espana Moderna*, published at Madrid, Spain. The writer disputes the correctness of the prevalent idea that the conception of justice is confined to the human race. He thinks the question of right and wrong is not settled definitely enough among us, and that which pleases us individually we are too apt to call just. The power we wield over the lower orders of creation is so great that our right is only rarely questioned, and there is enough selfishness in our nature to prevent us from acknowledging them unless they are able to revenge themselves. All this is set forth and elaborated in an excellent translation of the article in the *Literary Digest* of July 22. The whole paper is interesting, and the illustrations drawn from animal life in support of the author's position are many and wonderful. Of local interest is the allusion to our pelicans, and Captain Stansbury's work is quoted to the effect that "one of these birds was noted in the lake of Utah [the Spanish author spells it *Utha*] which was quite blind and old, yet apparently fat." The captain watched the bird and found it was fed by others younger than itself—an incident even more than corroborative of the well-known fact that pelicans fish in common, and allow each other to satisfy their hunger, driving the fish toward each other by turns.

Senor Posado concludes with the sound though not altogether complimentary assertion that the fact of our inability to arrive at a just comprehension of the moral state of the animal world does not prove that the animals are entirely lacking in what we are pleased to call intellectual qualities. He thinks perhaps some of our great economical problems defy a satisfactory solution because we fancy ourselves so high above the rest of the creation; perhaps we are unable to comprehend the harmony of the universe because we coolly rely upon our deductions and refuse to study it in all its branches—a conclusion to which we are pleased to think the Utah Lake pelican, with all its sluggishness and bad odor, may have helped him.

### IT GAINS GROUND.

The silver suggestion made in Wednesday's NEWS has been the leading subject of comment in business circles here and we look to see it grow and spread until it takes shape and materializes all over the coast region—unless, of course, Congress gets on the right track and stays there until silver is fully and unlimitedly remonetized. There are evidences that Ogden is now thinking of it, and it will not take long for other cities and towns in the Territory to declare their allegiance, after which we will be able to relax the prevailing stringency whether the national solons do anything for us or not; and it is reasonably certain that pushing the plan and talking it up far and wide will not have a deterrent effect but may serve as a stimulus to them.

Nearly every business man spoken to on the subject yesterday was enthus-

lastically in favor of the project. One of them said—"I have in my store \$50,000 worth of goods and all of it goes for silver slugs if we cannot get silver dollars," while others were as expressive and unreserved in their willingness to take hold and help along. One here and there hesitated because of the fear that the circulating medium, not being backed by any sovereignty, could and would be extensively "counterfeited" and debased by "plugging" and otherwise, while others thought it might conflict with some portion of the Constitution or laws of the country. To the first objection we will say that to knowingly pass for silver that which is not silver and receive value in return for it is a crime punishable under our local statutes nearly as severely as is counterfeiting under the laws of the government; and to the second we made sufficient reply in advance on Wednesday, but will answer again. The Constitution says on the subject in hand:

"No state shall \* \* \* coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts," and so on. In another place—"Congress shall have power \* \* \* to coin money and regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin, and fix the standards of weights and measures."

Congress has also enacted some stringent laws against counterfeiting or in any manner imitating the coins of the United States, but in none of these nor in the quotations above is there anything preventing the people from freely exchanging their commodities so long as no sign or token in similitude of money is used to effect the transfers. The slugs, ingots or whatever else they may be called must not, therefore, be made in imitation of or to closely resemble the moneys or either of them of the United States. They must be so different therefrom that the most ignorant person need not be deceived. They might, we think, be round and even milled, as many checks and other means of facilitating business in places are; but they must bear no device similar to those of any of the coins. The circulating medium would not be money nor presented as such; would not be a legal tender and could not cancel a debt except by mutual agreement. It would simply be so much produce—just what the advocates of the Sherman law repeal are seeking to make silver in any and every form—and received as such by those who chose to do so. If a citizen is willing to dispose of his products or labor for some other person's products, it is a matter with which the Constitution does not and Congress cannot lawfully interfere.

It is well to have the matter thoroughly talked up and understood at once. As previously set out, it can do no harm in any event and if the national lawmakers should (unexpectedly, just now) obviate the necessity for action in the direction indicated, the matter can be dropped without anybody having been injured. But if that which is decreed (so far as we may judge) goes through and our greatest industry is given the blow which is intended, we can then more fully respect the mandate of Congress by recognizing our silver as merchan-

dise and using it as such, only putting it in convenient shape.

There is another suggestion that may gain something for us; the East and render our resort to homemade "money" unnecessary. New Orleans would gladly take our silver whether in the shape of money or ingots or bars and supply us in exchange therefor with everything we now order from New York, and would be glad to make such an arrangement. That city can settle its European balances with cotton and the cotton raisers will be only too glad to take the silver in return. By this arrangement—a mutual trading system between two sections in commercial sympathy with each other—the national metropolis would be brought to terms quickly and effectively. Stranger things have happened, and in dire emergencies, when we are menaced by those who ought to aid us, we must use such means as are placed within our power and make the situation as comfortable for ourselves as possible.

The NEWS' columns are open for others to declare themselves or show reasons if any they have why such arrangement should not be carried out and become a recognized system.

### DESTITUTION IN DENVER.

Do any of our readers understand that in the once and up to a short time ago continuously prosperous city of Denver men, women and children are starving for bread? Perhaps they do not, and it is most unwelcome information at the best; but like other calamities at home or abroad it must be made known. We learn from the NEWS that "bread money," for the first time in the history of Denver, appealed to the sympathies and pocketbooks of church-goers last Sunday. At the conclusion of the morning services at his church, after the plates had been passed around for the regular contribution, Myron Reed spoke a few feeling words on the destitution now beginning to thrust its grim visage into view. He requested that the plates again be passed for the relief of the starving men, women and children. The result netted \$124.21 toward the bread fund.

This is the way Mr. Reed spoke of it afterward to a reporter:

When a man eats dry bread it is pretty good proof that he is hungry. We pay 5½ cents for the large loaves and cut them in two. The bread is eaten on the spot, except in the cases of women who have hungry children at home. The wolf is right here at the door and it behooves every property owner to assist in relieving these people.

The NEWS declares that Mr. Reed is in a position to know whereof he speaks, and he views the situation with grave concern for the future. We are feeling somewhat the stringency of the times here, but not to such an extent as that, and do not believe we are likely to. While we have many who have small resources and some few who are at present unemployed, no acres of actual suffering are reported from any quarter. While we have our "hands full," however, and have to make every edge cut to get along, let