

them to listen to an exposition of political theories that conflict with those they incline to favor? In the opinion of the "News" every phase of the science of human government, including the burning and palpitating political questions of the day, ought to be laid before the students in all the schools of the State, as well as before all of its suffragists.

It is the privilege of the press to advocate such political doctrines as it believes to be right, and to argue against those it believes to be wrong; but it is a violation of first principles for a newspaper to undertake to exclude political discussion and instruction from an educational institution. That is a matter properly under the control of the management of the institution involved. There are too many men and too many papers now in this State who whine like a pup or howl like a wolf just because somebody says something about politics at variance with their views. This condition is fixing upon our fair young commonwealth a reputation for bigotry and intolerance that will be its bane if not corrected; and the "News" would like to see graduated from our educational institutions a race of young men and women whose political convictions would be broad and deep enough to endure criticism from any source.

Let the breezes of political discussion blow from whence they will. Let every man and every woman who has political views be granted the privilege of expressing them to any audience that will listen. Let such discussion in the schools be controlled by their officers, and in churches by their discipline; but let the press and public opinion insist upon free speech. The "News" has heretofore expressed itself in regard to a change of the financial system established by the fathers of the Republic; but it firmly believes that a change in the money standard is not fraught with half the danger that is involved in such a change in the standard of American liberty as is insisted upon by the opponents of free speech.

CHURCH MEMBER AND AGNOSTIC.

When the will of Henry M. Taber of New York was read, the Presbyterian denomination received a great shock. He was a millionaire cotton broker, was president of the board of trustees of an old and noted Presbyterian church, and during the greater part of his life was supposed to be a pious member of it. But for twenty years before his death he was an agnostic, and for fifteen years he was secretly engaged in propagating, with his purse and pen, radical agnosticism. He contributed generously both to the church of which he was a member, and to the publication of "free thought" literature, but the aid he gave to the latter cause was under cover.

He died on the 4th of last month, and his will contained a scathing denunciation of Christianity. Soon after his death a book written by him entitled "Faith and Fact," was published, and it has augmented the effect produced by his will, for it is a vigorous assault upon the Christian religion as taught by the leading sects of the day. The introduction was written by Ingersoll, and the contents show that Mr. Taber had been a great reader of sermons and of literature relating to religion. The book is Ingersollian in doctrine, sentiment and argument, and adds nothing new to the agnostic literature of the day, though some of its paragraphs are somewhat striking. Here is a sample:

"It is but historical truth that Christianity has discouraged learning, antagonized science and retarded civilization; that it has instigated fear, in-

cited persecution and encouraged war; that it has stirred up jealousy, enmity and strife; that it has been the prop of thrones, the friend of despotism, the enemy of liberty; that it substitutes faith for reason, legend for fact, tradition for history, fable for truth; that it would punish honest thought with never-ending torture, and reward dishonest belief with eternal bliss; that it has shown itself to be ignorant, credulous, superstitious, bigoted, arrogant, irrational, unjust, tyrannical, pharisaical, cruel and immoral; that it falsely assumes to possess the only true system by which uprightness of character and moral conduct are inculcated and attained; and that it erroneously claims to have established the only institutions of a beneficent character that have existed. The persecutions and murders for opinion's sake have no parallel in the history of any other than the Christian religion."

This is a very severe arraignment of the Christianity now known to the world, but of course it has no application to the system of religion, philosophy and government that was actually introduced by the Savior. It merely describes the results of the apostasy from that system, which became complete at an early period of the Christian era, and which, undeniably, has filled the so-called Christian world with sin and woe. The bulk of Mr. Taber's book is very similar in character to the average of agnostic efforts on similar lines.

The most singular feature of the whole matter is that while he was engaged in collecting material for and writing this book, he should have held a responsible position in an old and strictly orthodox church, and should have posed as a pious member of it. His double life destroys all confidence in the sincerity of his convictions upon any subject, for he must have been a complete and accomplished hypocrite. There is ground for the suspicion that among the rich and fashionable congregations of the day, there are many like him; and that not infrequently his counterpart can be found in the pulpit.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN COLORADO.

A copy of the Remonstrance, printed in Boston, has come to hand. It is a small four-page sheet which bears no sign to indicate whether it is a sporadic or a continuous publication. There is, however, an announcement that it is published by "The Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Extension of Suffrage to Women." How is that for a long name? It makes a specialty of recording the defeats met with in various parts of the world by the friends of woman suffrage, and seems to take pleasure in devoting its limited space to reproducing the opinions of opponents of equal suffrage.

It contains two excerpts regarding the status in Colorado, designed to show that woman suffrage is a failure in that state. One is the utterance of Hon. W. F. Hynes, formerly a member of the Colorado legislature, but now sojourning in Raleigh, N. C., who is represented as saying:

"Woman suffrage in Colorado is an absolute failure, and it will be a great day for Colorado when the law is repealed. There is a growing public sentiment against it, and a great many of our best women are bitterly opposed to its continuance. The stand I take against it is a practical one. The ballot may be theoretically a good thing for the other sex; practically it tends to degrade a majority of the women who avail themselves of its use. There is a coarse female element which soon learns to work only for the success of those candidates who will purchase

their votes. Now, is the world benefited by a class such as this, whose only question is, 'What is there in it?'

"Another class of our women politicians are above such sordid and low inducements, but few would go into the thick of political conflict for the principle alone. They take up an unpleasant role merely at the request of their husbands or other male relatives who will profit by the success of a particular ticket. The woman vote has been growing lighter each year since the passage of the equal ballot law, which is the surest evidence that the very persons for whom the law was passed are careless as regards exercising their privileges."

If the prevailing sentiment of Colorado newspapers be taken as a reflex of that of the state in general, Mr. Hynes has misstated it. The press of Colorado, that is the majority of the leading papers, are by no means advocating the abolition of woman suffrage. The other extract is an interview with Mrs. Laban Edward Smith of Cripple Creek, who expressed views opposed to the possession of the franchise by women, but states them in a very feeble way.

The Remonstrance, or at least this issue of it, makes no reference to Utah, Idaho nor Wyoming; and it will have to get stronger material than it presents this time before it can make a showing of any value in regard to Colorado.

RUSSIA AND COREA.

To those who watch Russia's progress in eastern Asia recent news from Corea is interesting as throwing a great deal of light on the real intentions of the czar's government. The new Russian minister at Seoul has announced that priests from Russia are coming to give the Coreans religious instruction.

Hitherto missionary work in that part of the world has been conducted principally by emissaries from the United States, of the Presbyterian faith. They report that they have founded ten churches with a membership of 530. The announcement that Russian priests are going to instruct the people is looked upon as a notice to the American missionaries that from now on the Greek church is to be dominant, which practically would mean the extinction of the Presbyterian mission there.

Russia has already taken charge of the finances of the country and that against the protest of the Corean officials, who supported the English representative who discharged his duties to general satisfaction. The next step, to take the lead in the religious instruction of the people, is calculated to make still firmer the bonds by which Corea is being united to Russia.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

It is an interesting fact in the career of Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is remembered throughout the United States today, February 12, that his early mental training was directed entirely by the close study of nature and a few books, some of which many would regard as obsolete. According to his biographers, up to the age of twenty years only Aesop's Fables, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, a Life of Washington, the poems of Burns and the Bible had been within his reach. After that age he was in a position to master the difficulties of English grammar and to add to his store of knowledge from the Life of Franklin and the Life of Henry Clay, and finally he obtained access to books on law and that treasure house of English literature bequeathed to the world by Shake-