

AN UNMITIGATED SNUB.

THE "Ministers' Association" of this city have taken up a labor with the organ of the sectarian clergy of Utah, in order to induce it to cease the issuance of its Sunday edition. In support of their position the gentlemen of the cloth present four reasons, all of which are sound enough, but they have no more weight with the parties addressed than the pouring of so much water on a rubber coat.

The signers of the appeal are R. G. McNiece, Pastor First Presbyterian Church; John E. Hurlburt, Pastor Phillin's Congregational Church; J. A. Krautz, Pastor Swedish Lutheran Church; W. S. Hawkes, Supt. Congregational Mission Work; F. L. Arnold, Pastor Westminster Presbyterian Church; De Witt D. Forward, Pastor First Baptist Church.

It is pleasing to note the fact that the plea put forth in the east that there is need to Christianize the "Mormons"—seeing they believe in and practice a genuine system of Christianity—is beginning to be acknowledged as a mere pretense. This effort on the part of the clergy to convert the publishers of their own organ is in the line of an admission in that direction. But note the ungrateful reply of the object of ministerial solicitation. It says:

"The argument turned around may be made to read this way: 'For certainly there is no valid reason why a minister of the gospel should open his place of business on the Sabbath in order to make his weekly salary for the alleged salvation of the public—nineteenths of whom never hear him—which would not equally justify, etc.'"

If the signers of the ministerial appeal to the publishers of the Sunday morning edition had been placed in a row and a member of the editorial staff of the paper—designated for the purpose—had twisted each clerical nose in turn between his thumb and finger, the snub might have been a little worse than the one administered, but not much.

"MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN."

WE HAVE received from the Secretary of the Bureau of the Siberian Exile Petition Association, a copy of the document it proposes to forward to the Emperor of Russia, and which is to be numerously signed by American citizens, in the hope of inducing the potentate to ameliorate the condition of the unfortunates consigned to the dreaded region. We are requested to give space in our columns to the petition, which

has a historic value, and we consequently annex it hereto:

"To His Imperial Majesty the Czar of all the Russias:

"We who petition your Majesty are citizens of the United States of America.

"We belong to a people who have long been bound by the natural ties of sympathy to the great Russian nation and to the Czars clothed with her majesty, who wield her power and shape her destiny.

"It is your Majesty's province to do for Russia what we, in a certain sense, do for ourselves; and though the methods of governmental action are different, the aims of good government are the same; the strength and true grandeur of the State and the welfare and happiness of the people.

"For these things nations are organized and laws are decreed and executed; for these things great Princes in the fear of God exercise imperial sway, and Presidents are appointed.

"Differ though they may in outward form, your government and our government are brothers in their noblest duties.

"Nor are our fraternal professions an empty feeling; we remember, and we can never forget, how the Czar, by his faith in the stability of the American Union and by the presence of Russian ships in the harbor of New York, strengthened the Republic when it was supposed, by less far-sighted sovereigns and statesmen, to be on the verge of ruin. Our danger, then, arose from an evil which your illustrious father, Alexander II, by his example, helped our illustrious President, Abraham Lincoln, to remove; and the great Prince who liberated the Russian serfs and the great Citizen who freed the American slaves, by kindred deeds of humanity, linked their countries together by enduring ties.

"Sharing, therefore, as the past has taught us to do, in the thoughts that concern the glory and happiness of your people, we have been moved to bring to you, with good greetings, this petition:

"That your majesty will personally take note of a widespread interest, among us, in the workings and effects of the Siberian exile system.

"We do not forget the penal reforms already accomplished in the Russian empire. We are not blind to the mental and physical sufferings that of necessity are a part of any system of punishment for crime against individuals, society, or the State; nor are we unmindful of the need of reforms which are actively engaging the attention of philanthropists in our own methods of dealing with convicts. In this we are giving expression to the feeling of a friendly people, that in the punishment of some of her subjects Russia, whether from causes peculiar to her people, or on account of ancient custom, is not in harmony with the humanizing sentiments of the age. It is our wish that by the wisdom and power of the Czar and the favor of God, Russia may grow in the admiration and sympathy of the American people and of the whole civilized world."

The document is adroitly worded, being decidedly diplomatic, and, its mild statement is much better than merely informing the Czar that he is a flint-hearted despot and ought to be ashamed of himself for his barbarous treatment of Siberian exiles. That is exactly what it

means, however, under the sugar. It is like administering a small piece of asafoetida in a dipperfull of syrup in the hope of deceiving the patient into the belief that he is swallowing unadulterated molasses.

The projectors and operators of this movement are to be commended for their humanity, in pleading for the unfortunate victims who are ground under the iron wheels of a relentless despotism. Their success in achieving their object is, however, exceedingly doubtful, and it is lucky for the chief pleaders that they will not be within the reach and jurisdiction of the Czar when the soft-spoken communication reaches him, else they might be given an opportunity to test the rigors of the Siberian climate if not the sharpness of the thongs of the prison whip.

Perhaps the Emperor of all the Russias is posted about some things that do not seem exactly right in this republic, where justice, freedom and humanity have universal theoretic sway. If so, he might remark:

"I had been thinking for some time past of sending a petition to the American rulers for the purpose of inducing them to give better treatment to a class of your people called Latter-day Saints. They have been robbed, peeled, pillaged, driven from their homes and many of them murdered, and I have never known of their wrongs having been redressed.

"I observe also that many families that have been established from ten years to half a century have been broken up and disrupted, while their heads have been thrown into prison, because they declined to disown them; many tender hearts have, I understand, been torn, and many premature graves filled by these strange doings.

"It has been even credibly stated that quite recently much of the property of these unfortunate people has been confiscated by a process never applied to any other class of your citizens, and latest and most extraordinary of all, it seems that large numbers of them, in your country, which is supposed to be free and liberal, are deprived of the right to vote or hold any political office, or to sit as jurymen in trials, their only privilege being to pay taxes, a prerogative which I myself am always willing to accord to my subjects.

"People are clamoring for me to give my people a constitution. I wonder how much better they would be off were I to do so, when such