

incident furnishes abundant proof. Their voracity at that time made them the actual saviors of the struggling colony, and ever since they have enjoyed legal immunity from slaughter and a sentimental esteem in popular gratitude reaching almost to reverence. To permit a disturbance of them now amounting practically to their extinction in a short time, would be not only folly but a disgrace. If the law will not protect them from the threatened injury—even though no injury to them is intended—public sentiment should. We have got along a good many years without guano, and can surely wait a few weeks longer. But the guano we need all the time, and—leaving gratitude for past favors altogether out of the question—they pay well as they go for all the immunity and preservation we accord them.

#### THE PELICAN POINT TRAGEDY.

The finding of the body of a murdered man near Pelican Point, a few miles southwest of Lehi, Utah county, several days ago, and subsequent investigations, have led to the discovery that a horrible triple murder has been committed. Thus far there have been no developments to indicate definitely who were the slayers of the three young men whose bodies have been recovered. Of course the officers have their suspicions, based on circumstantial evidence, and they may be right or not. It is possible that with comparatively little further trouble the crime may be traced to its authors and these be made amenable to the law; on the other hand it may be that long and diligent investigation will be necessary, and that the officials will have to overcome many discouraging difficulties before the mystery is cleared up and the guilty parties brought to justice.

The case is one that demands prompt and efficient action on the part of those charged with the enforcement of the criminal law, and it is to be hoped that no stone will be left unturned to bring to the perpetrators of the crime the extreme penalty of the law. The circumstances connected with the murder and the disposition of the bodies are of such a character as to cause a chill of horror at the recital. That a crime so abhorrent should be committed here is deplorable; and being committed, that the important facts concerning it should be published is necessary. At the same time we do not believe that the elaboration of repulsive details or the frequent repetition of events connected with the crime, such as is the custom of newspapers elsewhere, shown in the case of the recent murder mysteries in New York and San Francisco, is a beneficial feature of journalism. Newspapers must record important and sensational events. But in doing so it is not their duty to give the record that form by which the public is educated the readers into familiarity with crime and vitiates the moral taste so that offenders are deprived of their horrifying aspect. It is enough to tell the awful fact; it is too much to hold the picture up to view until it may be looked upon by the public with composure instead of aversion. It is enough for the officers to have to be-

come familiar with all the sickening details; and in retreating out and bringing to punishment the guilty parties they should have the sympathy and support of the public from the beginning to the close of the case.

#### DEGREES OF SLANDER.

The eastern preacher who upon mere hearsay made the charge against President Cleveland of drunkenness on an occasion of public ceremony—whom charge he has since very reluctantly and ungracefully withdrawn—appears to have landed where he belongs—neck-deep in the contempt of the whole American people. The President's dignified but scorching denial of the slander, and his determination to take no further note of it—author, either by way of controversy or of suit for libel, show prudence, sense, and not misplaced confidence in the honor of the people of this country. With the defamer of character, the false accuser of his fellow American manhood has not a single element of sympathy. The slanderer is held to be a reptile beneath the contempt of decency, and even in instances where party differences and passions are appealed to—the response is invariably one of loathing and disgust.

But the Rev. Mr. Lansing has shown two or three traits that deserve to be called honorable in comparison with the course of others that will be locally thought of, in the line of personal attack and malice. We have stated that he did retract—a feat in a way that reflected little credit upon him; nevertheless, he was decent enough to acknowledge in a mild way that he was in error and to express sorrow for what he had said. This is one thing to his favor; but another thing that is far above this, and that places him on a bright, high pinnacle compared with the foggy darkness in which the anonymous viper crawls and hisses, is the courage that enabled him to stand up in his own person, and in his own name accept responsibility for his own utterances. Alongside of the nameless, cowardly slanderer, he stands forth as the very soul of honor.

#### FRENCH PRESIDENTS.

The assertion that the authorities in France have unearthed an anarchist plot to assassinate President Faure is surprising in view of the apparent inactivity of the lawless fraternity since the striking down of Carnot. According to the *Petit Journal*, a deserter from the French army, a few days ago left London on his terrible mission of bloodshed, the purpose being to end the career of the president during his visit to Havre to attend the fete held in honor of his election. The discovery of this plot, of course, prevents its execution at the time fixed therefor, but the thought of it is likely to hang as a dark cloud over the horizon of the chief executive of the republic. Will the vigilance of the police be sufficient at all times to prevent criminal cranks too still may be at large from carrying out the plot and striking the deadly blow in the heart of the marked victim?

It is curious to reflect on the fact that of the presidents of the now existing French republic only one has been able to serve his full term or seven years. A fatality seems to cling to that exalted office. Thiers, the blacksmith's son, the able lawyer, historian and statesman, as the first president of the new-born republic baptized in blood, commenced the gigantic labor of arranging the nation's finances. He succeeded in a degree beyond all anticipation, and to his efforts, more than to those of any single individual, the resurrection of France to prosperity is due. Yet after two years of faithful service repeated attacks were made on his government by various political parties, and in May, 1873, after a vote in the Deputies which he considered a declaration of a want of confidence, he resigned.

MacMahon who successfully had led the struggle against the commune in 1871 and thus rescued the country from the fatal embrace of the anarchistic hydra, succeeded Thiers. His conservative views drew opposition to his administration, and when he refused to remove from office certain Bonapartist generals obnoxious to the Republican party, he was forced to resign in 1879, remarking that new times required new men.

Julius Grevy, who followed MacMahon, succeeded by his great ability and an administration marked by sincere simplicity, in gaining the confidence of the people. He was deemed the ideal of a republican executive, and at the close of his term in 1885, was rewarded by re-election. But then followed the famous series of scandals that led to his resignation two years later almost in disgrace. Sadi-Carnot now became president. He seemed destined to hold the honor of the full term. His administration will always be remembered as a wise one, while his personal character stood out bright and clear even in the thickest dark mists surrounding the Panama scandals. However, he was struck down by the assassin before his term of office was completed. The brief term of Casimir-Perier and his resignation is recent history. The office of French president seems to be one difficult to fill and one to which is attached as much danger as honor.

#### THE BIG GERMAN CANAL.

The announcement in the dispatches of Monday, that the North Atlantic squadron had sailed from Colon, is a reminder of the fact that two of the finest vessels of the squadron, and by the way perhaps the two best of their class in the world, the New York and the Columbia, have been selected, with three others, to represent the United States navy in the international display which is to take place on the opening of the German canal across the Heligoland peninsula, on June 20. The two vessels are to be overhauled and repainted at New York, preparatory to departing for the Baltic. They go at the invitation of Emperor William, who has requested the naval powers of the world to participate in the display which celebrates the greatest event in canal history since the Suez canal was opened. While the United States