

block to good fellowship and an offense to Christianity. We rather suspect that were the full facts to be made public it would be found that the "call from Helena" was not so potent as the kick from Ogden in bringing about his change of pastorate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

THE NEWS acknowledges the receipt of a circular letter from the executive committee of the Associated Press, and has given it a careful perusal.

The circular is issued, as alleged, because of "false and misleading reports which are being promulgated to injure" the Association, whereupon it becomes necessary to make certain defensive and explanatory statements. One of these is the somewhat refreshing one that the company is an organization for the collection and dissemination of news; that its object is *not to make money*, but through co-operation to obtain the best news service possible for its members and clients. The statement as a whole would have been just as strong if not a little stronger without the reference to money making, because it is pretty well understood by those who pay its tolls that they are sufficiently numerous and sufficiently high to cover all expenses and leave a considerable margin of profit; this must go somewhere, and it is idle to say it goes to charity, while it is an assured fact that so far it has not gone to the betterment of the service. The surplus receipts of the service. The surplus receipts have, of course, gone where they should go, and where no well-disposed person will object to their going—into the pockets of the owners and managers of the enterprise. While this may not be the object, it is undoubtedly an object, and being entirely unrepensible need not be denied.

The circular then goes on without enlightening us as to what the "false and misleading reports" are, but leaves us to conjecture, by the force of implication, that such reports are the negative of what is affirmed—namely, that some one has said that the Associated Press makes money one of its reasons for living, and that it does not seek through co-operation (or otherwise?) to obtain the best news service possible for its members and clients. This latter charge, if a negation can be called a charge, might be "false and misleading," and being, unlike the other, a blow at the company's reputation and standing, might properly be denied in toto and specifically if such denial can be made upon truthful grounds. But we are not long permitted to engage in so defensive a thought, for a little further on we come to the admission that "owing to complications which have existed until recently the service has been allowed to become inferior to its standard," and that steps have been taken to overcome this defect and place the workings of the company upon a proper footing. This is coupled with numerous other statements and promises of a more or less rose-hued character, for the realization of which the A. P.'s subscribers, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

It is very evident that if the com-

pany's legal adviser prepared the circular they ought to change attorneys without delay. Even as a plea of confession and avoidance, it is a sorry piece of bungling, but let that pass. We lend a hearty approval to that portion of the circular which says the service has become inferior, plead ignorance to the allegation regarding false and malicious reports, and hail with delight the promise of better things at once. The Associated Press is a very useful if not an indispensable factor in the make-up of the modern daily newspaper, and few if any there be who seek to cripple, misrepresent or annoy it, while its rates are promptly and in most cases cheerfully paid. The only remonstrance against or hard talk concerning inadequacy or incorrectness in the service, is such as hardly ever if at all reaches headquarters, so we fancy that the idea of "false and misleading reports" is the result of a conscientious impulse born of long-enjoyed immunity while realizing that a wrong practice was going on. No matter; we all want the Associated Press to be what it ought to be, all that it can be for the money, and hail with especial pleasure the promise of reform.

DEATH OF RENAN.

A DISPATCH in Saturday's News briefly announced the serious illness of Joseph Ernest Renan, and foreshadowed his early demise as a conclusion of the physicians in charge. The latter's judgment proved to be correct; the great theologian, orientalist and philologist yielded up his immortal part yesterday, the cause of death being congestion of the lungs with sympathetic affection of the heart.

Renan was born in 1823 at Treguier, France. He early developed intellectual qualities of a high order, and after a preparatory stage of education at the hands of priests was sent to the seminary of Abbe Dupanloup at Paris, to be graduated in the ministry. He later completed his philosophical studies at Issy, and from there went to St. Sulpice. His, however, proved to be a case of instruction leading to different results than was intended or expected by his instructors, his thoughts and expressions assuming a range of freedom and flight at times wholly incompatible and at nearly all times not in perfect harmony with strict orthodoxy. He early became an author and soon acquired distinction; editorial pursuits also occupied a portion of his time, he having founded *La Liberté de l'Enfer* ("Liberty to Think," otherwise free-thought), in 1848. Perhaps the work which attracted the greatest attention of all his productions, was a comparatively recent one—*La Vie de Jesus*, ("The Life of Jesus.") This book created something of a commotion throughout the intellectual world; it denied the divinity of the Savior and treated Him simply as a man of unusual and philosophical characteristics, of good general disposition and deportment, but not entirely above some of the mortal weaknesses.

It is perhaps fair in summing up Renan's general character, to place him among the intellectual giants of the age, one of those whose acquirements are the result of a reliance upon

the merely sensuous impressions of the mind and in which the soul takes but little part when it takes any part at all. In brief, he led the van of the modern school of free thought, or agnosticism as it is more recently termed, and gave us in his wonderful developments of intellectual power a complete exemplification of the mind of a philosopher, the training of a Jesuit and the instincts of an infidel united in one and the same being.

LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE.

THE letters of the two principal candidates for the Presidency have been placed before the people, read and considered. According to party usage, those of the candidates for the Vice-Presidency are now in order, commencing with that of Mr. Reid and followed closely by that of General Stevenson. It is the unwritten law of parties that the one in power must lead out in the matter of holding conventions and issuance of letters of acceptance by the leaders, followed in like order by letters from the lieutenants; we may therefore look for Mr. Reid's official declaration of willingness at any day.

There are several other tickets in the field this year—the People's party, the Prohibitionists, Socialists, and Social Reformers, the last named representing the ultra Woman's Rights element and those who believe in fewer social restrictions, and is headed by Victoria Claflin Woodhull Blood Martin; the organization and the candidate's name seem to have a peculiar fitness for each other, but it is not likely to attract much attention otherwise. None of the candidates of these parties have so far seen fit to comply with the letter-writing custom, and it would seem that none of them intend to engage in that feature of political procedure.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

THE world-startling performance of a little Kentucky mare, who with the speed of lightning in her heels has clipped nearly five seconds from the time of the fastest trotted mile, recalls a name that is only less revered because not generally known. History gives us in the first quarter of the century a mere glimpse of a good-looking young woman whose graces of mind and person were all but buried in the recesses of a western forest and amid the poverty which such a life at such a time involved. But the freedom of the pure air and the boundless woods brought contentment to her stout heart, and devotion to her husband sweetened her life of toil. In time a child was born to her, a sturdy but not a handsome boy; and a few years later she passed away from earth. The lonely little fellow wandered silently through the sombre glades and crunched beneath his restless feet the forest flowers, drinking in the love of nature and of liberty while still nursing his childish sorrow. Winter's snow and summer's sun succeeded each other with due regularity, and the boy gained in stature and strength and intelligence. His springing forth from the wilderness into the