

less be appalling. Robberies of that character are of the lowest grade, and those guilty of them are criminals of the meanest and most contemptible type.

AMERICAN RUINS.

SECRETARY NOBLE has done a good thing in withdrawing from the public market, for the time being, those lands in New Mexico and Southern Colorado on which are situated the ruins and relics of the remarkable and alleged pre-historic race known as the "Cliff Dwellers."

The step has been taken in the interest of science. The logical sequence of the position taken by the secretary will be a speedy and thorough investigation of the locality where a peculiar race, of strange habits, probably made compulsory by hostile surroundings, at one time dwelt. The investigation will doubtless result in a valuable contribution to the fund of information already accumulated in relation to what are commonly designated the ancient races of America. We will look forward with no small degree of interest to the proposed research, and anticipate that whatever the discoveries may be, they will serve to sustain the authenticity of the Book of Mormon as a genuine history of the people who inhabited this continent in past ages.

A WOFUL SCENE.

THE inhuman outrages that are daily being perpetrated, and which are recounted in the public journals, are sufficiently horrible to chill the marrow in the bones of the sensitive reader. Surely the acme of ferocity was reached by Owen Hefferon, the New York hod-carrier, who seized his little daughter, threw her in front of a cook stove, held her there with one hand while he poured a kettle of boiling water over her body. A fellow capable of being fired with such insane rage, against an innocent child, as to cause him to perpetrate such an awful crime should be held in durance indefinitely. He is unfit to be allowed to run loose in a civilized community. But the question is an open one as to whether a community is really in a state of civilization in which such cruel and squalid scenes as that presented in the home of Hefferon exist. It was a fearful picture of unadulterated ferocity and unmitigated misery.

IT IS JUST THE THING.

It is very gratifying to hear the encomiums of the people on the Declaration of Principles prepared by the municipal convention of the People's Party. They endorse it as a fair expression of their sentiments and wishes. We have heard no objection to anything it contains. A few critics, however, would like to have had some other things said in it, and a more vigorous expression of one or two ideas, but when the reasons for the exclusion of the former and the temperate tone of the latter are explained, it is acknowledged that, all things considered, the document is better as it is.

Even members of the "Liberal" party who are not committed to the extreme radicalism of its leaders, admit that it is a good platform; indeed, all that could be reasonably desired by any good citizen. Some of them, however, express doubts as to whether the practical suggestions it contains will be carried into effect.

The best answer to this would be a practical adoption of these views by the municipal authorities at once, so far as possible. There are declarations in favor of certain changes which are immediately practicable. Why not go ahead and put them through?

The water question is the first in importance and rightly takes pre-eminence on the list of desired improvements. We do not see what more the Council can do on this matter than they are endeavoring to accomplish. They have given it diligent attention. Some members have been working at it almost night and day. The problem is the question of supply. When that is solved the distribution can be attended to as the masses of the people desire.

There never was a more delusive cry than that of "free water." It is utterly impossible to get water for nothing, for public uses, in any part of the world. It costs money to procure it, even in the regions where there is the most abundant supply. And its distribution, whether by pipes or in ditches, or in any other way, entails expense proportioned to its extent and complications. "Free water" is the impudent cry of deceiving demagogues and is a complete and absolute absurdity. Our water system could have been made amply sufficient for essential public demands, if the sources of supply had not failed during this exceptional season of drouth

Against such a calamity it is very difficult to devise a certain remedy or preventive. But whatever can be done will certainly be attempted by the gentlemen who have the matter under official direction. And they know more about the possibilities and the impossibilities of the case than any stranger who may be imported or any paper theorist finding fault for political ends.

The improvements in water distribution, street lighting, police extension, sanitation, public buildings, railroad regulations, the suppression of vice, etc., which the representatives of the People's Party favor and request, may be proceeded with, as reason shall dictate and financial ability will permit, without waiting for a new City Council. Action on these matters will show that the Party is in earnest, and that any hostility based upon the suspicion that the Declaration means only words and ideas, is utterly groundless and undeserved.

Of course the noisy and unprincipled agitators who expect to profit by a lively political campaign and a change in the government of the city, affect to ridicule the Declaration of Principles. In one breath they claim that it is a new departure led by "Liberal" demands, in the next they say it is a rehash of old ideas embodied in a previous People's Party platform. First, they pretend to laugh at its enunciations as absurd, then they declare those utterances are "Liberal" ideas borrowed for the occasion. All this inconsistency appears in their organ as the opinion of "Liberals" on the Declaration.

There is one thing that should be noted; the organ of the "Liberal" party admits many of the evil deeds for which that party is arraigned, and acknowledges that the "Liberal" party is animated with a longing to strip the ballot altogether from the hands of the majority here, "if they could bring it about as their brethren have done in Idaho." The whole admission is a confession that the arraignment of the "Liberal" party in the People's Declaration of Principles is correct, both as relates to its past acts and its future plans and purposes.

We are quite willing that the platform adopted by the convention shall be "changed at," as promised, by "Liberal" shouters during the coming municipal campaign. Any man who is opposed to one of its principles or any of its demands, is