

ty by the hand of an official assassin. By the connivance of those who are sworn to enforce and administer the law and maintain its majesty, the murderer is enabled to go free, with an implied license to sally forth and find fresh victims. In the meantime the jails are being filled with men who entered upon their peculiar family relationships years before there was a Supreme Court decision in regard to the constitutionality of the anti-polygamy law of 1862, and in some instances before any law whatever existed on the subject. By this process large numbers of women are made temporary widows, with threats of rendering the situation permanent, while even by the bullet of the assassin, the innocent and helpless are deprived of their earthly head and protector.

Those who are engaged in the perfidious work seek to delay the reaction as long as possible by screening themselves behind the refuge of lies. They may for a time suppress the truth by cunning and unscrupulous devices, but it will not stay covered up. The cries and wails of women, and the piteous moans of little children may not penetrate their adamant hearts, but they reach the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and He will bring the reaction about in a way they think not of. In the language of a celebrated philosophical thinker—"Matters refuse to be long mismanaged."

THE INDIANA TROUBLE.

THERE is discontent with prospects of a strife severe and long in the land of the Hoosier. The late election in Indiana resulted in the choice of the Republican candidate for Lieutenant-Governor by a little over 3,000 majority; but the Legislature, which was chosen at the same time, contains a Democratic majority of two on joint ballot, the Republicans having the House of Representatives and the Democrats the Senate by a majority which is two greater than that of their opponents in the lower house. The laws of that State require the vote cast for State officers to be canvassed by the two bodies in joint session the second Monday in January next following; this was yesterday. The Democrats, however, claim that under a proper construction of the law there was no vacancy in the Lieutenant governorship, that therefore the election as to him was a barren formality, and that the votes so cast were thrown away; holding to this view they refuse to meet their brother legislators for the purpose indicated. But the Republicans were not to be overcome in that way, at least not for the time being; so, having everything previously arranged, after the House was called to order yesterday and the chaplain had offered up his diurnal prayer, the sergeant-at-arms announced the presence of the Senate, which body was of course invited to approach and be seated. The "Senate," in this instance, consisted of the Republican members of that body, and they being in the minority did not constitute even a quorum! But they were received in due form as the entire upper branch of the Legislature, the votes were counted, and the Republican candidate was declared duly elected; he was then sworn by a justice of the superior court, took the gavel as a symbol of his newly-acquired authority, and the "joint convention" adjourned.

The ability of the Republican party to manipulate elections has been frequently illustrated in high and low places; its handiwork is visible here and there in the records of the nation, and of the States composing the nation, and of the counties composing the States. With only minorities they have run in precinct constables and counted in Presidents; this might be considered brain-work by some, whereas it is certain that others regard it as sheer knavery in holding on to what is in possession after the people have decreed otherwise. However that may be, it is pretty certain that they have overshot the mark this time; no matter if their candidate was properly elected and legally entitled to the office, he has not been legally inducted into it and on a contest will doubtless be pronounced if anything only a *de jure*, certainly not a *de facto*, official. The law says the vote must be counted by the Senate and House, not by one and an inferior fraction of the other, as was the case in this instance.

Another trouble hovers about the political horizon of Indiana. The Republicans in the House, being in the majority, propose the unseating on a contest of two Democratic members of that body, giving the places to the contestants and thus making a change of four votes, which would place them in the majority on joint ballot and secure a Republican U. S. Senator. If this scheme is attempted, the Democrats in the Senate intend, arbitrarily if necessary, to unseat Republicans as fast as Democrats are unseated in the house below. They say, with Shylock, "The villainy you teach me I will execute; and, though it may go hard, I'll better the account."

The reader will thus perceive that our Hoosier friends are up to their eyes in the quagmire of discord. The Legislature meets again to-morrow (Wednesday), and we shall see how they get along then.

TALMAGE THE TERRIBLE.

THE Reverend Dr. Talmage said in a recent interview, "The summary of it all is that this is a grand old world and I want to stay in it as long as I can."

No one will find fault with this sentiment on his part. As the man said to the tramp on his door step who wanted to stay there all night, "Well stay there then." But the Doctor is just a little bit covetous, for while he seems anxious to stay himself he sometimes objects to other people staying. For instance it is reported that some time ago he wanted to drive out the disciples of Thespis, and suggested, in his forcible style, that the theatres of New York should be "razed to the ground, their foundations ploughed up and sown with salt." Later on he wanted many of the people of Salt Lake gathered into the big Tabernacle and coincidentally blown out of the world with bombshells. It would seem that the doctrine here inculcated is hardly consistent with that of a meek and lowly follower of the Lamb.

He sometimes lectures on what he calls "big blunders." How would it do to append these two items of his personal experience to the list.

If the Doctor had not studied for the ministry he would undoubtedly have excelled in the role of Anarchist.

PASSING AWAY.

Twenty years ago millions of buffalo roamed the plains between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains. Now we are informed that there are left alive only some six hundred head, and the indications are that they too will soon be slaughtered. The government, some time ago, instituted measures for the protection of the natural wonders of what is now known as the Yellowstone National Park, from the vandals who might seek their destruction. If something of this kind is not done for the buffalo, one of the noblest animals of this continent will soon disappear, leaving not a vestige of the vast herds that once darkened the plains as far as the eye could reach. Until recently they have merely suffered at the hand of the hunters, but now the museums are also after them and their days are numbered. An exchange has the following: "The National museum recently sent its taxidermist, William T. Hornaday, with two or three assistants, to Montana and Wyoming for the purpose of securing good specimens before it is too late. Mr. Hornaday reports in a letter to Professor Baird that he has succeeded in getting twelve of these animals, some of which will be mounted and placed on exhibition in the National museum, and the remainder distributed to the principal colleges of the country." By the time the other museums are supplied it is highly probable that the last buffalo will be stuffed and stuck up on sticks as a curiosity.

TAXATION OF MINES.

THE persistent libellers of the people of Utah, among other untruths that they have repeated times without number, have charged upon the Legislature elected by an overwhelming majority of the citizens that they have endeavored to tax the mining industry with a view of destroying it. We need not say to our local readers that no such attempt has ever been made by our legislators, but people abroad may have taken the libel for truth, not being familiar with the facts. Representatives of the agricultural and manufacturing interests have contended that those who own the mines ought to bear their just proportion of the burden of taxation, that is all. They have made no such propositions as are often attributed to them by creatures without conscience, who write for a local sheet notorious as the willing receptacle for the slanders of any liar who will contribute to its stream of abuse against the "Mormons."

The revenue law of Utah exempts from taxation "mining claims and the products of mines and the ore in the mines." Whether this is fair and equitable is open to dispute. There are many fair-minded men who consider it is not. They think there is no just reason why the mining interest should receive special protection more than the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests. But that is how the law stands, and it certainly is not in any degree oppressive of miners or the owners of mining property. And the arguments of those who do not consider it equitable extend no further than a contention that every industry and all property should be placed upon an equitable footing. They have never attempted to discriminate unjustly against mines or mining operations.

In Colorado, where the mining interest has been protected by constitutional provisions, there has long been a strong feeling against the exemption from taxes which mining property has enjoyed. But the period fixed for that exemption in the State Constitution having expired, the Governor, in his

recent message to the legislature, strongly recommends the taxation of mines as a just measure and one calculated to be for the best interests of the State. He approaches the subject modestly, knowing the hostility that may be provoked in certain quarters, but he is emphatically in favor of either taxing mines as real estate, or taxing their net output, or taxing both conjointly, but prefers a uniform rate on all patented mines and then an additional rate on their net output. This he considers fair in theory, and believes that, wherever tried, it has been successful in practice.

We append the Governor's recommendations on this subject in full, and leave him to the mercy of the howlers who will assail him for his honesty, assured that he will care as little for them as we do: Following are the remarks of the Governor of Colorado:

"The constitutional exemption of our mines from taxation having now expired, it becomes the duty of our honorable body to devise a method for distributing its fair share of the expense of government over this class of property."

"That there can be any rational objection to the abstract proposition, I do not apprehend. The exemption in the beginning was an error. Its continuance would be a crime."

"Exemption was an error because it defeated its own purpose, and instead of encouraging the development of properties already discovered, it simply encouraged capitalists to plaster the surface of the country with patents which it cost nothing to hold till the labor of others gave a value to their property. It thus gave the rich an advantage over the poor. There are, through the evil operation of the law, already many promising mineral districts in the State, practically undeveloped, where no chance remains for courage and energy, against the phlegmatic conservatism of money. To continue the exemption would be a crime, because it would knowingly perpetuate a wrong. Energy, courage and intelligence must not thus continue to be exasperated by the senile insensibility of wealth. But the subject is a delicate one and should be approached with the caution of wisdom. Naturally the question is simple enough, but its practical solution will be found surrounded by many delicate considerations affecting the welfare of every interest in the state."

There exists in certain quarters, no doubt, some impatience that so lucrative an enterprise should have escaped its just share of the burdens of government for so long a period, but the law has been loyally accepted as final, and now it remains to be discovered if what has been so long enjoyed as a privilege will not be demanded as a right. I think it will not. I have been at much pains, through correspondence and otherwise, to discover the sentiments of active, practical mining men in various parts of the state, whose personal interests are most closely identified with the prosperity of this great branch of industry, and I feel perfectly warranted from my knowledge of their sentiments, in conveying to you the assurance that any attempt to further exempt such property from its full and equitable share of the public burden would be regarded by them as the vainest and feeblest of demagogery. But this sentiment, so worthy of the sturdy manliness of our mining population only eliminates from the problem one of its difficulties—the most troublesome one certainly—leaving yet so many delicate complications that I cannot but regard the question with a sense of grave solicitude. That the property should be taxed may be regarded as an accepted proposition. How that tax may be distributed over the whole volume of the property so that its weight may injure no part and allow no part to escape its just share of the burden, remains for the wisdom of your honorable body to determine. You will find your efforts in this direction restricted to some extent by the limitations of the constitution. There is no danger from the general sentiment of the State, no danger whatever from the intention of the agricultural class, for they are bound by their own selfish interest to do the most sensitive justice to do this description of property. The burdens of the State will rest very lightly upon it. The danger is entirely local; it is with the counties."

"Most of our mines are located in counties unsuited for agriculture, so that happily there can be no class division on the question. The experience of the past proves that the government of mining counties is more liable than others to fall into irresponsible hands, and it is a source of comfort in contemplating so grave a question to reflect that whatever ills the owners of this class of property may suffer, they will suffer from neglect to interest themselves in their public duties. Such a full and just valuation of the property of the state as the constitution contemplates, if had, would undoubtedly reduce at once the rate of taxation for state purposes to 1-500 part of a dollar and might not improbably reduce it very soon to the 1-1,000 part of a dollar. It is the local government that costs and that is directly within the regulating power of the people. If they allow it to be burdensome it is because they do not exercise their authority to render it more economical."

There appears to my mind to be some danger in allowing the counties full sweep in imposing taxes on this class of property, though on the other hand it may prove that the imperative duty

of protecting their own interests will have the much-to-be-desired result of compelling greater watchfulness over county affairs on the part of the intelligent class of citizens who will become liable for the tax. To fix the rate of taxation it will probably be found that the legislature lacks the authority; but to fix the limit is another question. I am of the opinion that it may be done."

The question will next arise as to how the tax may most conveniently be laid—on the property as real estate, on the net output, or on both conjointly. An output tax alone would not seem to meet the full requirements of justice, and it has the sentimental disadvantages of seeming to be an income tax, though in reality it would be no more of an income tax than the manufacturer or the farmer pays on the net product of his business. To lay it upon the real estate only without prudent limitations would probably involve much irritation in fixing valuations on a class of property whose value is more or less speculative. I am advised that there has been successful precedents in other Western States and Territories of fixing a low uniform limit of taxation on all patented mines without regard to production, and the laying an additional tax on the net output. This has the appearance of being entirely fair in theory and I am advised that in practical operation it has been found satisfactory. A tax will commonly be unpopular, not so much by the burden it imposes as by the inquisitorial manner of its levy; and the inquisition involved in determining the "net" certainly has an unpleasant aspect. But so long as the manufacturer and the farmer must submit to it, the mine owner can not well claim exemption. Though individually I should rejoice to see the poor miner struggling to develop his property, favored in the scheme of taxation, I fear that any effort in that direction would complicate the operation of the law beyond endurance, and generally it is not the poor man who tries to shirk his fair share of the public burden. It is furthermore to be considered that if the tax is equitably distributed over the whole volume of property it will be too light to be irksome to any. As the law now stands the working miner pays more tax on the rude cabin that shelters him from the elements than is collected from the million-dollar property in which he earns his bread."

I commend the subject to your endeavors, not without solicitude, but with confidence that your wisdom will devise a law that will secure justice to all. In the enactment of such a law it will afford me pleasure to co-operate cordially with you.

THAT BOGUS LETTER.

IN the pretended trial of W. Thompson for killing E. M. Dalton, one Gleason, formerly a deputy marshal, exhibited, as a witness for the defense, a letter purporting to have been sent to him by Dalton warning Gleason to come "heeled" when he attempted his arrest. If the prosecution had been conducted with a genuine desire to prosecute, the authenticity of that letter would have been put to the test. It would have been determined whether the communication was genuine; whether it was in Dalton's handwriting; whether the alleged warning was not utterly improbable in view of Dalton's well-known and frequently expressed intention not to resist arrest. But the course of the official prosecutor in pleading for the defense instead of the prosecution, showed how much of a trial was in progress. The pretended letter passed without question.

It is the common opinion that the communication was not from Dalton at all, but that it was manufactured as an excuse for the murder. If it was believed to be genuine there is no doubt that evidence would have been adduced that it was in the hand-writing of the deputy's victim. It was a matter of general understanding that Mr. Dalton had returned from Arizona whither he had previously fled, with the avowed purpose of facing it out and taking the consequences of the charge against him. He had repeatedly declared he would not avoid arrest. The purported letter was contrary to his character and declarations and is believed to be bogus.

As for Gleason's testimony, no importance is attached to that by the people of the south. He is regarded there as a brute and unprincipled ruffian. His word there is not worth a cent. His unsupported statement goes for nothing. So with Thompson's testimony in his own behalf. A murderer will generally lie to save himself from punishment. He swore that Dalton had a boy on the horse in front of him, and that he pulled up shortly and put the boy to the ground and that the horse had got "on the loose" before the shot was fired. Not another witness testified to the story about the boy on the horse. The falsehood was emphatically contradicted by Collins W. Clark who was close to Dalton when he was shot. The object of Thompson's apparent perjury was to make it appear that the time was longer than as testified between his call to halt and the firing of the shot. His claim that the gun went off accidentally or by inadvertence was also emphatically dis-

proved by a cloud of witnesses who saw him take deliberate aim at his victim.

The statements of those two ex-deputies are therefore without value except to show their character and how much their word is worth. We would not believe either of them on oath. Our opinion about the letter coincides with that of the public. If it is still claimed to be genuine, let it be compared with letters in the known and acknowledged handwriting of Dalton. Let those who are familiar with his writing pronounce upon it, and let disinterested persons make a fair comparison and a just decision.

Of course this would not now affect the result. But it would have a bearing upon the plea of justification set up for the murderer and adopted by the prosecutor who defended him from the legal consequences of his cowardly and bloodthirsty act. We believe the letter to be a forgery, and it will be so considered by the public unless some proofs of its authenticity are produced. Its fabrication and acceptance in evidence without a test of its genuineness, were steps in the direction of the whole course pursued in this most shameful perversion and prostitution of justice.

A WORD ABOUT VENTILATION.

THERE is a Bishop in this city who seems to entertain a good idea about ventilating the meeting house in his ward, by the adoption of which the health and comfort of audience, singers, and speakers is duly regarded; his is too much of an exceptional instance, and is worthy of notice. The room is thoroughly well warmed before the time appointed for opening the evening services, the fire is then allowed to die out, and the windows are opened a very little at the top and kept thus during the meeting. His practice in this regard is commendable, and should be emulated by others who have charge of any room where a number of people congregate. In all assemblies, indoors, the air is rapidly vitiated, and overcharged with carbonic gas, unless there is suitable provision made for a renewal of fresh air. It frequently happens that some of the people who are shut up in these overheated, unventilated meeting houses have their health impaired thereby without knowing the cause, and all are made to suffer, more or less, by persistence in keeping stoves hot and doors and windows closed; discomfort, drowsiness, and headaches are some of the minor evils resulting from this pernicious practice. It is no wonder that many, reluctantly, stay away from meetings held in such stifling, unhealthy atmosphere.

An excellent plan to ventilate rooms, without creating a draft that will hurt, is to fasten a close fitting strip of wood under the lower sash of each window, thus raising it a few inches and making an overlapped opening, which causes an upward current of fresh air to enter the room. Something of this character should be done, else the body will be injured while the spirit is sought to be benefited. The Gospel of Temporal Salvation should be practiced while the Gospel of Spiritual Salvation is being preached.

THE LAW-MAKERS' DELAY.

THE traditional delay of the law is a slight matter compared with the delay of the law-makers. In no respect are those of the United States so dilatory as in the recognition of claims for services rendered to or property used or destroyed by the government; they seldom repudiate a just claim, but in many instances they might as well do so, so far as conferring any substantial benefit upon the beneficiary proper is concerned, for he is frequently in his grave and the compensation goes to his heirs when it is allowed. The dispatches to-day contain another illustration of how those who look to Congress for reward of merit sometimes grow sick with hope deferred over the promises and snail-paced performance of them; Senator Mitchell, of Pennsylvania, has succeeded in getting before the upper branch of Congress a bill for the relief of telegraph operators during the war—that was a quarter of a century ago, and most of the operators are either dead or old men now. They rendered good and dangerous service, and haven't been rewarded yet, nor are they likely to be this session; there are too many political plots to be pushed through ahead of the business they are interested in.

The publisher of Baltimore, Md., *Every Saturday*, Mr. T. J. Wentworth, says his child, aged six months, was suffering from a severe cold, and he gave it Red Star Cough Cure, which acted like a charm. No morphia.

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