

### "WINTER IRRIGATION."

THE *Pacific Rural Press*, of San Francisco, in a late number, advocates "Winter Irrigation." It states that nearly all the wild and valley land in California, if once thoroughly saturated with water during the winter months, will produce a crop, without any, or at least but little more rain for the season. In many localities, it says, a sufficient quantity of rain does not fall during the entire winter to thoroughly saturate the soil down to the point where water always stands, or to a reasonable depth below the surface. It states that when the rainy season is over in California, the growing plants depend upon the moisture that has been stored up in the soil; if this supply is insufficient, crops must fail. Hence, it argues in favor of "winter irrigation." The beneficial results from such a system, it thinks would be incalculable—better in many respects than summer irrigation, and far less costly. There are thousands of farms in the State of California that border upon streams which flow only when it rains or for a short time after. When drouth is threatened the water should be turned out of the stream at frequent intervals and made to flow broadly and slowly over the land, or stand in pools until it is all absorbed. A large portion of the immense body of water that finds its way through the Golden Gate might thus be kept back to fertilize the soil and stand in the place of summer rains which never fall in California.

Since our settlement of these valleys and our thorough demonstration of the utility of artificial irrigation, the system of watering the ground has received much attention in various parts of the country. By the assistance of this system the raising of crops is made practicable in many regions which otherwise would be incapable of settlement. Recourse has been had in some parts of California to irrigating the ground in summer, and in all the Great Basin, where water can be procured, the land is susceptible of settlement and cultivation. Utah's example has been felt in many directions, and her system of irrigation and the splendid results which have followed it has been noted and is being imitated in places which are favorable to its adoption.

THE *Chicago Times*, in speaking of woman suffrage, complains of the amount of unadulterated bosh which its advocates inflict upon the public. When men make nuisances of themselves they are squelched in some way, but gallantry prevents taking the same course with a woman. It asserts that the strongest reasons for not granting women the ballot are afforded by the very women who advocate it. It says:

"In Chicago, the women who would vote would be the precise women to whom prostitution is a profession. Modest women would remain at home. The chances are certain that the extension of the ballot to women would bring out only the worst elements of the sex, and, hence, the voting power would deteriorate. When the ballot can be employed to crush out vanity and love or display in women, then its use may possibly lessen the social evil,—for these are the springs which feed the stream of courtesanship."

If this be a true statement, and we cannot doubt it, it illustrates very thoroughly what wise discrimination is needed on the part of legislators in the framing and adoption of laws for the government of people. Woman suffrage in Chicago, we are assured, would bring out the worst elements of the sex; the modest women would stay at home, and women of bad character would go to the polls. Of course, then, it would be decidedly impolitic to endow the sex of that city with the franchise, for it would lead to more wide-spread demoralization than already exists, and many abuses would spring up. But in this Territory a different state of affairs exists. Woman suffrage has existed here, by law, for the past year. Its exercise, thus far, has been attended with none but gratifying results. It has had no bad effect upon the sex; we do not think it is likely to have. Modest women go to the polls, deposit their votes, and are no more inclined to be strong-minded, aggressive, or to make nuisances of themselves than they were before the voting power was conferred upon them. Because they are voters, they do not seem to forget that they are women, or to have the idea that they must abandon their own sphere of duties and labor, and adopt that of the other sex. We speak this to the credit of the ladies of this Territory.

If the *Chicago Times* is correct in its statements as to the effect woman-suff-

rage would have in that city, then there must be a radical difference between the women of Chicago and the women of this Territory, and a law that would answer admirably here would not answer there, and vice versa. It is the failure on the part of many national legislators, editors and publicists to comprehend this fact that has led to so many mistakes in the treatment of what is called the "Mormon question." They have measured the people of this Territory by the rules which apply to residents of other localities, and have, consequently, been mistaken and disappointed. This is especially noticeable in the ideas which prevail respecting the marriage system of this Territory. A man who would attempt to judge the "Mormon" husbands and wives by the experience he may have of husbands and wives elsewhere would signally fail in comprehending the plural system of marriage of the Latter-day Saints, and be as wide from the truth in his calculations respecting it as he would be were he to judge of the effects of woman-suffrage in Utah by the consequences which would follow its exercise in Chicago.

On the 9th inst., the creditors of Mr. Oakes Ames, or the various firms with which he is connected, held a special meeting at Boston to hear the report of a committee which had been appointed to examine into the condition of affairs and the prospects of the obligations being met if an extension was granted. Creditors to the number of nearly a hundred were present, and it is said that not less than a hundred millions, at the very lowest estimate, were probably represented by individuals as individuals, to say nothing of the vast amounts represented by gentlemen who were present as officers of banks and corporations.

John B. Alley, of Lynn, formerly member of Congress from Butler's district, was elected chairman of the meeting and read the report of the committee. The report stated that the whole amount of the liabilities of all the concerns—Oakes Ames, Oliver Ames & Sons, Ames Plow Co., and Kinsley Iron and Machine Co., are eight millions, four hundred and ninety-eight thousand, and seventy-five dollars and forty-three cents. The assets of all are fifteen millions, two hundred and thirty-seven thousand, one hundred and sixty-four dollars and seventy-eight cents, which leaves a balance in favor of these various firms of six millions, seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand, eighty-nine dollars and thirty-five cents. This includes the private property of Oakes Ames, but not that of the members of the firm of Oliver Ames & Sons. This private property would swell this balance to considerably above eight millions. The report states that in this estimate everything is valued no higher than it will bring under proper and judicious management.

Mr. Alley afterwards addressed the meeting. We give extracts from his remarks:

"I assert," said Mr. Alley, "without fear of contradiction, but for Mr. Oakes Ames, his boldness, his courage, his energy, that greatest of achievements in ancient or modern enterprises—the building of the Pacific Railroad—would not to-day, nor for a long time to come, if ever, have become an accomplished fact. I hesitate not to assert that if the national government, which saves many millions annually by its construction, had been as faithful to its obligations as he and those with whom he is associated in the management and direction of this road have been to it, he would not have been obliged to ask at your hands the accommodation which his necessities now demand. Instead of denunciation and abuse, the builders of this road had a right to expect the co-operation and gratitude of both government and people. But contentious factions, rival interests and wicked speculators have done their worst to misrepresent them and poison the public mind in regard to its construction and management, and they so far succeeded in connection with black-mailing, plundering and swindling legal raids upon its operations, to so impair its credit that Mr. Ames, assisted by a few others, was compelled to take it upon his herculean shoulders several times, and lift it out of difficulty. To do this he invested largely in its securities, and this demand lately made by the government, just as the road was getting into good position, and 'out of the woods,' and he felt that he should soon realize something near their real value, reduced their market value so much that with all his other burdens he was obliged to succumb."

Mr. Alley stated that "the government saves in transportation and direct expenses annually several millions more than the whole interest amounts to; and little did he or any one think who was in Congress at the time those bills were passed, when the unspeakable import-

ance of the road was completely realized, and the great risk incurred by its projectors fully appreciated that Congress, the government or the people would ever prove faithless to their obligations merely because they supposed that it had proved a profitable investment."

The report of the committee was accepted and the leading creditors signed an agreement for extension as recommended by the committee.

Mr. Alley's opportunities of understanding the position of Mr. Ames and the causes which have produced the embarrassment under which he labors must be very good; but there are those who do not agree with him in his views as he states them.

"Gath," the Washington correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune*, in alluding to the failure of Mr. Ames in a letter to that paper says that

"He is reputed to have spent large sums in the lobby—to have distributed parcels of cash and stock amongst Representatives and Senators, and their connections; and, while he did carry out the great railroad enterprise, he also put upon a gigantic scale the lobby possibilities of a Republican Government. The country is familiar with the manner in which he applied the splendid endowments of the nation; how he organized a 'ring' within the Union Pacific corporation, built his railroad with the receipts of his government bonds, and withdrew considerable sums to expend in distant speculations. He undoubtedly supposed that the government would not be tenacious of the letter of its contract with his railroad, but his expectations fell athwart the frugal propensities of the Secretary of the Treasury."

GREAT are metaphysics, and wonderful men are its professors; none of your ordinary, every-day mortals. They delight not in such coarse, common material as beef, and bread and butter, or in anything else solid, substantial or commonsensical. They go back to the essence or quintessence, and it must be double or triple distilled, at that. They are profound reasoners, in fact so deep that none can understand them. The Scotchman's definition of metaphysics is just the thing. He said "when the folks wha listen dinna ken the meaning o' wha they hear, and when the mon wha speaks dinna ken wha he means his ain sel"—that's metaphysics."

Utah has had a few of this class, and they are such smart men! at least their admirers say so, and they are most enthusiastic in their praises when their oracles are most incomprehensible. God, and the mysteries of Creation and Nature, are the most attractive subjects to metaphysicians;—it has always been so; anything within the scope of human reason or judgement is beneath the attentions of such minds; a subject, unless so abstruse and intricate as to be altogether beyond mortal ken, is too common-place for the metaphysician. This must be so or the class would die out; if it were not so the metaphysician could not excite the admiration of the superficial, by the frothy, boshy, high-sounding claptrap which he calls reasoning. An eastern periodical, the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, published at St. Louis, as its name implies, is very metaphysical; and "the Finite and the Infinite" is the theme upon which some of its philosophers have recently been spreading themselves, exposing their assumption, ignorance and folly. The subject has called forth one of the rarest specimens of argumentative bosh, claptrap and learned nonsense ever penned, and for the benefit, delectation and edification of the metaphysical school of philosophers in Utah, we reprint it. It runs as follows:

"God is not The Infinite, but the Infinite one; He is not self-existence in general, but the self-existent Singular. The dialectical evolution of Being through Negation, after bringing us to the abstract Universal—the Infinite and the Finite, or Self and Its Other—leads beyond this to Spirit or Personality—the concrete Universal—as the absolute thought and fact. The Universe is the equality of the Finite and the Infinite; so far as there is definite Being there is Infinite Being; or, there is only one Reality, the singleness of self-existence. But this is rather a single manifold from a single one; the extension and intension are coincident; but just from this coincidence and equality it results that there is a self-identical Many, rather than a self-identical One. What is present is, therefore, Otherness in general, or a universal Being-for-Other, which, because it is a single Being-for-Other, is more properly Being-for-One. That is, the Singleness of the determination sublates the Otherness. The Universal is necessary for-One, but it is not for-Another; the One for which it is, is only itself. That is, the One is for-itself just because that which is for-it is nothing other than itself. To try another statement. Thought, or Reason, is the implicit or In-Itself of Nature; or, if one chooses,

Nature is the explicit or Out-of-Itself of Thought; for the Universal is just his Inward-and-Outward, and as much one as the other. Thought, then, is existence in-itself, Nature is existence for-itself, or objectivated to Thought, and Spirit is the whole truth of existence, at once in-itself and for-itself."

THE Rev. Mr. Sabine, a "young clergyman," who attends to the spiritual necessities of the attendants of a church at the corner of Twenty-eighth street and Madison Avenue, New York City, is just now the object of attention and comment by the press of New York and other portions of the country, that will secure him far more notoriety than his talents as an orator or divine are likely to gain him honor or celebrity. The telegraphic dispatches recently announced the death, at New York, of Mr. Holland, the actor, a man famous in his profession, and generally highly honored and respected by the public, for his upright, blameless course of life, he having been as conspicuous for that as for his talent as a comedian. The friends of Mr. Holland desired Mr. Sabine to perform the funeral rites over the remains of the deceased, and applied to him to do so, but received for answer: "I want nothing to do with an actor, there is a little place around the corner where they do these things;" and he positively refused to read the burial service over the "actor." Such instances of intolerance, luckily for the clerical order, are rare, and it must not be supposed that Mr. Sabine is an average specimen. Such a lack of charity, refinement and humanity would disgrace a member of the prize ring; and is an almost indelible blot upon the character of a professional expounder of the gospel, whose precepts inculcate charity, brotherly love, and every virtue and grace that adorns and elevates human nature; and whose ministers claim as their special prerogative the privilege to cheer, comfort and reclaim the erring, administer consolation to the dying, and to perform the last rites to the dead.

Mr. Sabine's excuse for refusing to read the burial service over the remains of Mr. Holland was that he had preached all his life against theatres. We wonder if the reverend gentleman would have refused to consign to the dust the remains of a murderer, and to pronounce upon him the assurance of a "blessed and glorious resurrection?" We think not; but a man like Holland, who had spent a useful and honorable life, must be refused the rites of Christian sepulture simply because he was an actor! It is well for the sectarian ministry that its members, as a general thing, are not characterized by the brutality evinced by Mr. Sabine; if they were their waning power and influence among the people would speedily die out altogether.

A MELANCHOLY and fatal case of somnambulism was recently recorded by the *Guernsey, O., Times*. A man, named Dutten, a resident of Meigs Township, Muskingham County, had been out coon hunting, and returned home late in the evening very tired. Some time in the night his wife was awakened by a noise in the bedroom, and looking up discovered her husband pounding the head of their infant child on the bed post. Her scream aroused him, for he was asleep, but too late, for the child was killed. The poor man stated that he dreamed he had caught a coon, and was killing it. Such a case is lamentable, and is probably without a precedent in the history of somnambulism.

ANNA DICKENSON is out with a new lecture—Men's Rights. She stands forward as the advocate of the rights of the stronger sex. In this lecture, which she delivered under the auspices of the Mercantile Library Association, New York, she said that a man had a different heart from that of a woman. A woman's heart may break, but she could gather up the skeins and make it sound; she may go about with a sore heart, but take a man and let his heart be wounded by a woman, he loses faith in womanhood, in humanity and in God! It is for this reason, probably, that Miss Dickenson sympathizes so much with men as to lecture upon their rights. She made a statement to sustain the views which she advanced in her lecture about divorces in New York and Massachusetts that sounds badly for the morality of those States. In New York she said there was one divorce for every four marriages; in Massachusetts it was stated there were sixteen hundred divorces now pending.