

from the head of the canyon. In that year the Bear Lake & River Waterworks & Irrigation Co. was organized, with a capital of \$2,100,000. Mr. Fred Mayhew was the chief engineer, and the preliminary surveys as well as the design for the dam and location of all the lines through the canyon are due to him. The descent of the river in the two miles of the canyon is over 100 feet, there being many rapids and one fall of over 14 feet, while both above and below the canyon the stream is quite sluggish. The dam was located at the head of the canyon in order to secure as great an elevation as possible, here 172 feet above Great Salt Lake. The general plan was to construct a canal on each side of the river, carrying them on supported grades around the sides of the valley, covering all the land possible. The company also had for its object the supplying of the city of Ogden with water for domestic use, but this is entirely distinct from the works now being described. The dam is 370 feet long and of a maximum height of 17 1-2 feet, maintaining nearly that height for the full length.

### MYTHS OF THE NORTH POLE.

Lately the discussion has been revived as to the question whether the present position of the North Pole has always been the same as it is at present. Should Frithjof Nansen, as stated in the dispatch from St. Petersburg, have succeeded in finding land there, it is not impossible that he also has discovered some clue to further fruitful investigations in this direction.

Some scientists claim that the earth's axis within historic times must have changed position relative to the ecliptic. Before the revolution took place, they say, the countries round the former pole must have had the climate of an eternal spring and been a veritable paradise. Others deny the whole theory.

Notice has lately been called, however, to the fact that in the oldest records preserved as well as in the earliest myths of nearly all ancient nations there appear to be allusions to mighty revolutions in nature that possibly may be explained on the supposition that the relative position of the earth to the heavenly bodies suddenly became altered. These statements and allusions also seem to indicate that to the earliest inhabitants of the earth, the North Pole by no means was a terra incognita as it is now. In Genesis we have the well known reference to the division of the earth in the days of Peleg. And all through the prophetic and poetic books of the Old Testament, the manifestations of the presence of the Almighty are described in language that may well be supposed to be borrowed from some record of a mighty upheaval of nature. Here is one of many of these wonderfully beautiful metaphors:

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.—2 Sam. 22: 8-11.

If we turn to the ancient mythology we find in the Indian demonology

references to the world-mountain Meru, which is represented as standing between the earth and the heaven, the heavenly bodies revolving round it. The Asuras, a certain class of evil demons, were supposed to live under this mountain while the mighty god Indra resided on top of it. If it is admitted that ancient myths of demons most probably are built on some historical foundation, it is reasonably certain that this tradition must date from a time when what might be called the North Pole was situated in a well known country inhabited by perhaps a mighty people.

In the Scandinavian mythology the "Aesir" play an important role, and this name is perhaps the same as the Indian Asuras, whom the legend pictures as an evil race at war with the gods. At any rate the word "Aesir" is to this day retained in the Scandinavian language, meaning a ridge or a hill, as if pointing to its Indian origin in the myth of the Asuras dwelling under the world mountain.

In the myths of all other ancient nations we are met with the same mountain, supposed to be the center of the earth and the heavens. The Chaldean astronomers pictured the heavens as turning round a mountain they called Kharsak-Kurra. Romans and Persians called the mountain Cardo and had a myth to the effect that primitive man there sought refuge from a flood. When these are compared with the most ancient traditions of other Asiatic nations, the proofs seem strong for the supposition that there was a time, in the earth's past history, when the Polar region was well known to the inhabitants of the earth. But if this is so, there must have occurred some change in the whole position of the earth. At least, this is what some scientists now think is a tolerably well established fact.

### HEINE'S PLACE IN AMERICA.

A body of American admirers of Heine, the German poet, have had strange series of rebuffs in their endeavor to present to an American city a copy of a famous statue of the poet by a German sculptor. New York was first offered the statue for a place in Central Park or one of the city squares, but declined it for the ostensible reason that it was not artistic. Chicago, with ideas of art exclusively her own, did the same; and perhaps other equally critical centers of taste and excellence have done likewise. After the strange spectacle of a corps of donors vainly passing their gift around the country, it has at last found acceptance by Baltimore, the "monumental city," and will add one more to the points of interest in that rare old Maryland metropolis.

The objection to the Heine statue on the score of inartistic design was never more than a pretense, for monuments with half its merit are given prominent locations and held in high favor in both New York and Chicago. The true objection was to the man himself. Religious sentiment was against it, for Heine's Christianity was not much more real than Voltaire's, to whom statues, if erected, are bathed in apologies. There was also another objection, and this is one of nationality; for Heine

was destitute of patriotic feeling, abusing Paris for his home, receiving a pension from the French government, and frequently lampooning and insulting his fatherland in his tuneful satires. The German public, abroad, and in America, therefore have no great love for him; and the dislike extended to others also, for on the same principle that "all the world loves a lover," it is equally true that all the world hates a traitor.

Heine was nevertheless a consummate master of verse, and his poetical fame is ever on the increase. Every translation of his works only serves to show more clearly the untranslatable beauties of the original. His position in the world of literature is unique, and the recent difficulty in finding a city willing to give place to his statue has at least the merit of bringing forth the same and side lights of his character.

### UNGRAMMATICAL VERBOSITY.

If the members of the Legislature would submit some of their proposed bills to a schoolboy grammarian before introducing and printing them, the estimate of the educational qualification of the legislators could possibly reach a higher average. Of course, a man should not be blamed for what he does not know; but a professed reader and pleader and interpreter of the law ought to see that at least his particular measures are able to pass muster in the common rules of syntax. Many of them cannot, and some are so fearfully and wonderfully worded that they read as though they represented several pages of a thesaurus or dictionary shot out of a gun, with just about that much connected sense.

While on this subject it may not be improper to suggest that the verbiage and tiresome multiplication of words in statutes framed by lawyers is a custom more honored in the breach than the observance. Short sentences and plain statements are features of legislative composition which the multitude know how to appreciate. If the aim of the lawmakers could be more clearly fixed upon the object of clarifying instead of befogging the meaning of the statutes, there might not be so much business for lawyers but there would be an increase of intelligent patriotism among the masses. That legislator will win for himself an undying memory in the community's affections who stands like adamant against the idle phrases and the frequently absurd language of the lawbooks, and who insists that in statutes intended for the government of the people, the language be so plain and direct that the people can understand it.

### A GOOD SELECTION.

The News sincerely congratulates Dr. A. Carrington Young upon his appointment as physician for the State prison. Besides being a thoroughly competent and a most skillful physician, he is the grandson of two of Utah's pioneers, and the son of parents who have lived in the State since the very beginning of its settlement, being himself born and reared here.

The ladies who made the future State