

## EDITORIALS.

## IN A QUANDARY.

THE very virtuous "Christian" people who live in British India are somewhat exercised in their minds over the circumstance that Mr. R. G. Melville, of the British civil service in that country, has become a Mahomedan and married a native girl, in addition to his "Christian" wife, who is still living. Now the Anglo-Indian monogamic "Christians" are not only sorely vexed in their righteous souls over this circumstance, but they are perplexed as to how to proceed against Mr. Melville. He cannot be prosecuted for bigamy, because it has been the policy of the British in India to permit polygamous marriages, such having prevailed in Hindostan from time immemorial. He cannot be removed from the civil service for changing his religion, but his position can be made a sinecure, that is, he can be kept unemployed, whereby his income will be reduced \$1,500 a year. Now that is not a very terrible punishment. In fact, there is good reason to suppose that numbers of men would be willing to abjure what little "Christianity" they may have, and take a second wife on those terms. Fifteen hundred dollars a year in British gold is not a trifle to be despised. In India, where luxurious living is so very cheap, a man, with his two wives, too, could live like a prince on that income. So Mr. Melville has not fallen on very evil times yet for his acting upon the apostolical precept that "marriage is honorable in all." Meantime, if those distressed "Christians" in the Orient desire a sympathetic counsellor in this their hour of trial, we may suggest that we know a learned and very "Christian" judge, who is fanatically bitter upon this subject which so afflicts them, and he would enjoy nothing better than to aid and counsel them as to the ways and means, law or no law, of punishing the contumacious Mr. Melville, for this learned judge is understood to have sworn with an oath to put down all that sort of thing if he can. Those oriental "Christians" and this "Christian" judge might at least communicate on the matter, even if they failed to do good in it. The judge can well be spared from his present position, for he is of little use in it, and, like Newman, he might succeed in being paid a handsome salary in U. S. greenbacks or gold while he paid a visit to Hindostan, on this sympathetic and philanthropic mission. By the by, he is a missionary judge of the first water, that is, he is so much of a missionary that he is best known as the judge with a mission, and his mission sits so heavily upon him that it really does seem, at times, as if it swallowed up and completely absorbed his judgeship.

## MILY FOR DULL TIMES

THE Contra Costa (Cal.) *Ledger* of Nov. 29 thus encourages the farmers of that county and of California in general—

A gentleman who resides at Courtland, a small town on the Sacramento river, informs us that land sown to alfalfa has this year netted him \$375 per acre. He has harvested three crops—one for seed, and two crops have been cut for hay. The straw of that allowed to mature for seed he sold for \$10 per ton. There are, doubtless, thousands of acres in this county equally well adapted to the successful growth of alfalfa as the land in the vicinity of Courtland, and once rooted it requires but little attention. As will be seen by the above figures, the profits are very considerable. Farmers who have believed that nothing but wheat can be grown in this county will be surprised at some future day to learn this is but one of many products which our soil is capable of producing, and perhaps the least profitable. In this connection we are glad to notice that many of the farmers at Point of Timber and throughout the valley have planted orchards which indicate a thrifty, rapid growth. There is no good reason why our agricultural population should continue year after year to ship their apples, potatoes and vegetables of all kinds from San Francisco. There are numbers of residents in the vicinity of Antioch who come to town to purchase eggs for family use, whereas the thrifty farmer will always raise his own poultry, hogs, beef and vegetables. One good windmill, such as may be seen at Eden Plain, will suffice for irrigating a good-sized garden. Let us have more of them and there will be less complaint of dull times and large store bills.

## IRRIGATION IN ENGLAND.

IN the course of an address by Mr. John Hope, jun., as it appears in the *Mark Lane Express*, before the Hexham (Northumberland) Farmers' Club, the following remarkable testimony of the benefits of regular and systematic irrigation, on the most economic plan possible, so far as the amount of water used is concerned, occurs—

Mr. Coleman has taken up the proposal of Mr. Isaac Brown, of Edinburgh, and placed some forty acres of his park under a new irrigation system. Lead pipes, perforated with small holes, are laid in parallel lines, sixteen yards apart, and a twelve-horse-power engine pumps at night from the lake into these pipes, when an artificial rain is thrown over an area of an acre and a half, ten tons of water being ejected in fifteen minutes; and plots are taken in succession until the whole area of six acres is irrigated during the night. On land thus treated a growth of grass half an inch to one inch per day can be obtained, and with a novel system of folding, also introduced at Stoke Park, the large number of 66 fattening sheep per acre may be fed. The folding to which we refer is done by means of a double row of hurdles, made in the form of a *chevaux de frise*, stretching across the pasture, with seven yards between the rows. These hurdles, with three feet prongs, are advanced four times per day, and the sheep feeding between the prongs, and with ample room for movement, have at all times an abundance of strong, fresh and excellent herbage, never foul their food, and walk and lie only on what they have already cropped. It is claimed that, whereas under the ordinary system the forty acres of Stoke Park pasture would be overdone with 260 sheep, under this double system of irrigation and folding the forty acres of the park will sustain 2,600 fattening sheep from April to October, which, putting on one pound of mutton per carcass per week for twenty-eight weeks, will give the very respectable return of £60 per acre.

Here we have an instance of the value of intelligent and careful grazing, assisted by systematic irrigation, perhaps the most perfect system of irrigation ever adopted. This instance happens in the moist climate of England, where it is commonly understood that too much rather than too little rain falls, which, so far as the actual facts are concerned, sometimes is the case and sometimes is not. They have rainy times and dry times, and rainy seasons and drouthy seasons there, as well as other people have elsewhere, but that country is not uniformly too wet to render irrigation needless and unprofitable.

Whether or not a similar system of irrigation and grazing could be successfully practised here, we shall not discuss to-day—it is a subject which it might be profitable for our farmers and cattle owners to consider at their leisure. Meantime we may dwell briefly upon the leading points in Mr. Hope's statement.

1. Forty acres are irrigated by artificial showers in the night, six acres at a time, ten tons of water on one and a half acres in fifteen minutes, probably as often as considered necessary.

2. With this the growth of grass is from half an inch to an inch daily.

3. Sheep, 66 to the acre or 2,640 to the forty acres, are folded on the land in divisions seven yards wide, the X hurdles moved four times a day and the sheep grazing only between the prongs of the hurdles.

4. The sheep make a pound of mutton per week.

5. The forty acres are overdone with 260 sheep as ordinarily grazed by running at large in the park, the irrigating and folding system thus sustaining ten fattening sheep where the ordinary grazing system sustains only one.

6. The 40 acres thus irrigated and grazed return an income of £60 or \$300 per acre.

Now these are very remarkable statements, and, if entirely trustworthy, as probably they are, they deserve the serious consideration of every American farmer. For it appears that, by this irrigating and folding system, one acre of land can be made as productive as ten ordinarily, in England, and that proportion would be increased in many instances in this country.

The reasons for these extraordinary returns consist in the economy of two things—perfect watering, and perfect consumption of the grass.

For grass lands of all kinds, and for any other land that is not baky,

watering by fine, gentle showers is the very best method that can be devised. With it the land is uniformly moistened, not made miry in one place and left dry as dust in another, the best conditions of the soil for the growth of vegetation being uniform moderate moisture and genial warmth.

With this folding system of grazing the grass is uniformly grazed, none soiled or trampled upon, but every portion utilized, and converted into meat, with the sole exception of the animal excretion, which falls on the grazed land, not on the grass being or to be grazed. Everybody knows that in ordinary grazing, with the animals running at large in the field, they destroy, or soil, or spoil far more than they eat. Hence the economy of this peculiar system of folding, the hurdles being moved frequently and but a very short distance each time.

As for irrigation, it is well known that water will bring grass anywhere, and good uniform irrigation will not fail to produce good uniform crops of grass.

## PHENOMENAL BIRTH.

SOME people contend that hybrids are constitutionally sterile. As a rule such seems to be the case, but alleged instances have been adduced to the contrary. We have heard more than once of the reported fecundity of mules, but it is a thing very difficult to believe. The following account of such an extraordinary condition has an air of circumstantiality about it. For all that, it may be false. A great amount of credulity is required to receive the account as truth. Here is the statement, as credited to the *Agricultural Gazette*, and we give it for what it is worth.—

The grand attraction at the Jardin d'Acclimation at the present moment is an Arab horse, a Morocco mule and their foal. This unique production was born in Algeria, in the present year, and caused a great commotion among the Arabs, who have a saying that "when the mule shall produce young, men shall become women and women men," and it was with great difficulty that the offending mother could be preserved from execution before the birth. Fortunately the authorities interfered, and the birth of the foal took place and was officially recorded and attested by medical men, and by M. Laguerriere, and a military veterinary surgeon, who supplied the facts of the case. The sire is an Arab of Tunis, 4 1/2 years old, and 1.40 metres in height, of remarkable beauty, but with rather long head and ears—a curious coincidence. The dam is a mule of Morocco, nine years old, and 1.30 metres in height, a well made animal, who has done good work as a *bat mule*, as the galls mark show. It must be added that she is again two months and a half gone with foal by the same stallion, and the three animals live together in the most amicable manner. The young hybrid is a female and more than three months old, 1.10 metres in height, very vigorous, fat, well formed, and, except in color and in form of the croup, resembles the sire rather than the dam; and a noticeable peculiarity is that it has a corn on all four legs, like the horse, whereas the ass and mule rarely have them on the hind legs. It is supposed that no such hybrid has ever been seen before, although it has been asserted that the product of a horse and a mule was once known in the Neapolitan cavalry, and M. A. Sanson, in summing up the evidence existing on the subject, says that such a fact of a mule producing a live healthy foal is phenomenal. Of course speculations on the consequences are rife, and it is suggested that should the young hybrid prove fruitful, a new species of animal may, by careful crossing be inaugurated.—*Agricultural Gazette*.

## ENJOYS THE CRISIS.

A GREAT deal has been said in the papers of late concerning the effect of the financial crisis upon the Spragues of Rhode Island, and hints more than once have been given that financial ruin was almost certain for them. But the facts appear to be otherwise, for the *Missouri Democrat* says, "Alluding to the item that is going the rounds of the papers that 'Senator William Sprague's health is in a worse condition than his finances,' he writes to a gentleman in Galesburg: 'My finances are much more satisfactory to-day than for several years. My health has not been as good since my boyhood as at this moment. My mind is cheerful and almost happy.'"

From the above it appears that the Senator from Rhode Island really enjoys the crisis and the

panic and the hard times, and thrives upon it, financially, physically, and mentally. If he does, why not others? So let us be merry together and drive dull care away.

## HINT FOR TEA DRINKERS.

THE *London Spectator* has been giving some not very encouraging information to those who indulge in tea as a beverage. That paper asserts that the honest Chinese "have discovered that tea leaves mixed with dung, iron filings, and other substances, all powdered fine, suit the English market, and are sending compounds of this sort over in huge masses."

Apart from the bad policy of depending upon a foreign nation for an article which is made a thing of staple consumption in almost every household, the above information will not be very conducive to the peace of mind of inveterate tea-drinkers.

Here is another extract with a little more detail—

Those who delight in tea, and fancy that they are getting a cheap and healthful beverage, will not be pleased to learn that of twenty samples lately analyzed in London, fifteen were found to be adulterated. They were "faced" with plumbago, and contained what the Chinese may properly call lie tea—that is, the leaves of other plants worked up so as to resemble tea. The iron filings discovered varied from 0.06 to 5.86 per cent. of the tea; the sand from 2.99 to 12.83, and the ash of the lie tea from 13.05 to no less than 52.92 per cent., in place of about 5 per cent. present in genuine green tea. The extractive matter of genuine tea is about 40 per cent.; that of the adulterated teas ranged from 26.69 to 37.94. The theine, one of the principal constituents of tea, present in green tea in the proportion of about 3 per cent., was in nearly all cases deficient, and in one instance as low as 0.32 per cent. Such compounds as these may be suited to the stomachs of ostriches, but they are scarcely compatible with the good health of human consumers.

## THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

HON. GEO. H. WILLIAMS, nominated by President Grant for the vacant office of Chief Justice of the United States, was born in Columbia, Co., N. Y., about 1820, his parents having previously lived at Pittsfield, Mass. Mr. Williams went to Iowa in 1844, where he engaged in the practice of the law, making rapid advancement therein, and was elected judge of the First Judicial District in that State in 1846, which office he held five years, during which time he achieved a reputation for great judicial ability. In 1850 he married the eldest daughter of General V. P. Van Antwerp, losing her in 1863. In 1853 he was appointed Chief Justice for Oregon, resigning that office during Mr. Buchanan's administration. He was elected to the Senate of the U. S. by the Oregon legislature and took his seat in 1865. He was a member of the High Joint Commission for the settlement of the Alabama claims in 1871. He succeeded Mr. Ackerman as Attorney-General of the U. S.

Judge Williams was thus described five years ago—

Judge Williams is tall and angular, and for a man who is in no sense comely or handsome, very fine-looking. I do not think him remarkable for his individuality or immobility, but he has plenty of what we call "brains"—intellectual power and force. He is clever in both the English and American sense of that much used and abused word; can adapt himself to circumstances, and please in the mahogany-furnished parlor or the punchon-floored cabin; is generous and un-suspicious, and does not long cherish ill will towards any one, or love "to treasure up a wrong." Personally he is popular with the people, and his election is very generally satisfactory, or cheerfully acquiesced in. Mr. Williams enjoys a laugh, and is apt to laugh with the world, let the world laugh at what it may; and with him, anything that can be successfully ridiculed can hardly be right. Though earnest he is not "destructive," and will help to build up rather than tear down. He is a good popular speaker, clear and distinct in his ideas, always forcible, often eloquent, and sometimes rises into the region of imagination, and adorns his speech with pure poetic gems. Some men have their motives of action noted in the past, while others live for the far-off future; but Judge Williams is a man of to-day, and draws his inspiration from the associations and events of the present. Mentally, and I may say physically, he is in the prime of life, has great capacity for work and business, and with the wide and var-

ied scope that the Senate will give him to gratify his ambition and earn distinction, will make his mark and reflect credit upon his State and country.

## MONTANA PAPERS.

THOS. DEYARMON published the first number of a new Democratic paper, at Virginia, Montana, Nov. 15, called the *Madisonian*. It is an eight columned, 24 x 38 inch paper, in brevier, and, according to the proprietor, "makes its advent with a larger list of actual, paying subscribers than any other paper ever did in Montana."

The *Madisonian* promises to follow a policy, which we have endeavored to adopt without any special promise, and which some other papers published within a thousand miles of this office might do well to carefully study, and that policy is one of "total abstinence from personal attack or unwarrantable reflection upon those from whom we may honestly differ."

The *New North-West* thus states the political leanings of the Montana press—

The advent of the *Madisonian* as a Democratic paper gives the opposition another measure of newspaper influence in Montana. Out of eight papers published in Montana, three the *Gazette*, *Independent* and *Madisonian*—are pronouncedly Democratic; three—the *Montanian*, *Courier* and *Missoulian*—while avowedly independent, are edited by prominent Democrats; leaving only the *Herald* and *New North-West* as representatives of the great, living, national party, and we do not harmonize.

The *New North-West* further states that "the peace of the nation is not likely to be disturbed by the unequal status of the Montana press," which kind assurance must be very comforting to the country at large.

## "GOLDEN SAND."

THE newly discovered gold placer mines in Southern California must be a good thing. J. R. Jacobs writes to his son-in-law at San Jose, under date of El Hopa or Tres Pinos, Lower California, Nov. 20, according to the *San Jose Mercury*, as follows—

Have been in this mining camp four weeks. The placer mines are the best I ever saw. It is 110 miles from San Diego. I presume you have seen some accounts of it in the papers. There are 150 Mexicans and 100 Americans here doing well. I saw a man get \$40 in one pan of dirt yesterday; of course it was a pocket. There is no coin used here, nothing but gold dust and that is plenty. Wood is plenty, but water is one to three miles distant. The dirt hauled yields from 5 to \$25 per yard, but there is a lack of wagons to haul the dirt. In digging a hole for a cellar to my house the dirt yielded eight cents to the pan. I send you a sample of gold dust, also some small stones called here rubies. The mines cover a space of 15 miles wide by 100 miles long. The whole face of the earth hereabouts is covered with broken quartz. We are the first white men ever here. The Indians have sold gold in San Diego and the Mission for the last 75 years. The weather is delightful, mild and cool, like San Jose in May.

## UTAH JUDICIAL MATTERS.

IN the dispatches we publish to-day is a brief report of a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, in a case relating to this Territory, that the Territorial Attorney General, and not the U. S. Attorney for the Territory, is the proper officer to prosecute in all Territorial cases.

This was well enough known here before, for no man of sense could doubt it, yet some of the Federal judges for the Territory, with obstinate and malignant judicial blindness, have refused to see it, furnishing further evidence of the truth of the adage that none are so blind as those who wont see. Now there is on record a decision from the U. S. Supreme Court that the Territorial Marshal, and not the U. S. Marshal, is the proper executive officer of the courts in Territorial cases, and another, by the same authority, that the Territorial Attorney-General, and not the U. S. Attorney, is the proper prosecuting officer, in such cases.

Will this be sufficient for the mulish portion of the federal judic-