

plished the ensuing winter, which is utterly improbable; and if it should, the Democrats would be as responsible as the Republicans, for they can effectually block any proposed legislation they want to. Altogether it would seem to be wiser to carefully survey the ground and then make haste slowly—a decision which, according to a New York dispatch in another column, President Cleveland has already arrived at.

HOW THEY TAKE IT.

The manner in which some of the eastern papers speak of the Democratic avalanche is "mighty entertaining reading." The *New York Recorder*, an extreme and (until now) irreconcilable Republican paper, has it—"Baby Ruth is going to the White House." Another of the same persuasion eases itself down by starting its leader, "What does it matter to the people of this country whether Benjamin Harrison or Grover Cleveland shall or shall not preside over them for the next four years." And so on. On the jubilating side, the *New York World* comes out the most glaringly, as doubtless it has a right to, as its labors for the Democratic cause have been efficient and ceaseless. For months it has been in the habit of closing editorial articles with the paragraph, "The next President must be a Democrat," and on the first page of its last Thursday's issue is a life-size picture of President-elect Cleveland, underneath which is the line, "The next President is a Democrat." Most of the editorial articles on both sides are well tempered, inclined to exuberance of tone by one and hopefulness for the future by the other; and in every case, so far as seen, they counsel moderation and rational progressiveness where they counsel at all. This is commendable.

GERMAN PERSECUTION OF "HERETICS"

An instance of religious intolerance in Germany was brought to the notice of the public by the press a few days ago, when a young Protestant theologian was sentenced to several months' imprisonment because, in a pamphlet, he had unmasked the fraud that is being practiced in connection with the "sacred garment" at Treves. His denunciation of the business carried on in the superstition of ignorant masses was called "blasphemy." Hence the severe penalty.

A similar case is now mentioned by the *Berlin Post*. According to that paper it is the intention of the authorities of the ecclesiastical department to prosecute the celebrated Professor Harnack because this gentleman in lectures and pamphlets expressed doubts about the correctness of the doctrine of the supernatural conception of the Virgin Mary, as popularly understood.

Professor Harnack is no radical enthusiast, but a well-known theologian who is considered among the ablest and most learned of the country. What he says is the expression of an opinion at which he has arrived after years of diligent research, and not even his adversaries dare to challenge his love for truth. But this does not pre-

vent them from clamoring for his punishment as a heretic.

It is hard to understand, on this side of the Atlantic, how any government can feel called upon to prosecute its subjects for the mere expression of an opinion on abstract questions. And it is harder still to understand how the country of Luther and Melancthon can have departed so much from the road of those great champions of free thought and free speech as to make the exercise thereof a crime.

THE CASE OF MERCIER.

Ex-Premier Mercier, the French-Canadian statesman recently tried and acquitted on a charge of conspiracy and attempt to defraud, has been hounded as few men in public life ever were. The press, usually impartial, have been in large number as vindictive and vituperative as that portion of the Canadian government and the populace which brought about his prosecution and, as it now appears, persecution also. In the midst of it all he has preserved a dignified demeanor, waiting patiently for the vindication which came at last, and letting his enemies do their worst. So far as the legal proceedings were concerned, acquittal came from the bench as well as from the jury, the charge of the judge to the panel amounting in effect to a direction to discharge, nothing to substantiate the charges against Mercier having been shown. His friends have urged him to return to the scenes of his former labors, but to this, opposition which comes from a source not to be ignored or underestimated, has made its appearance. The *Montreal Herald*, for instance, advises him to rest where he is, saying among other things that "there is a wide difference between personal offenses sufficient to justify a criminal prosecution and political errors grave enough to disqualify the offender from being intrusted with grave responsibilities. Of the former Mr. Mercier has not been guilty, according to the decision of a jury of his peers; of the latter he has been convicted by the verdict of the people of Quebec. Mr. Mercier will make a mistake if he does not, fully and unreservedly, accept both judgments."

The *Washington Post* takes a very different, and, as we think, more correct view of the case, holding that "in the very constitution of human nature, it is hardly to be expected of a man humiliated as Mr. Mercier has been and subjected subsequently to cruel and uncalled-for persecution, that he should not make vigorous efforts to rehabilitate himself in the confidence of the country. Hence the late minister will doubtless resume his seat in parliament and enter upon public life again. He has an apparently large following, and by the use of his unquestioned abilities may yet become a power and influence in the province. It is reported from Quebec that he intends to take a leading part in the movement for Canadian annexation, which appears to be steadily gaining ground both in Quebec and Ontario."

The dominion of Canada has not at any time been overstocked with public

men renowned for their vast capacity and breadth of statesmanship; it has but few today who have shown the general capability of Mercier, and to be deprived of his services altogether is simply to be weakened at a time and in a place where the government most needs strength.

PERHAPS THE LAW MIGHT HELP.

"The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year." The cold blasts direct from the domain of old Boreas whistle through crevices and howl around corners, while the leaden sky and the sombre atmosphere give notes of fitful preparation for the end of the fading year. It is such a time as makes one's mind involuntarily turn to the coal cellar and estimate as nearly as he may how much of protection against the current inclemency it contains, as well as what the additional amount needed is going to cost him; from which point he is apt to execute a mental flank movement and go directly to his pocketbook for another consultation with an indispensable factor in the proposition.

Salt Lake City is almost if not completely environed by coal measures some of which are difficult to penetrate and are therefore reposing in the bosom of the earth as free from the disturbing hand of man and the light of day as they have been since the great convulsion forced them from the gaseous gorges beneath; others are not only exposed but have contributed and are daily contributing to the convenience of mankind hereabout. It is not an exaggerative statement to make, that we have enough for all purposes and to spare right at our door or so close at hand that but little investment of money or labor is needed to utilize it. At a distance, one familiar with the natural situation would be apt to say that we are very fortunate, only having to go into our back yards, figuratively speaking, and shovel out what fuel we require at any time; he would also be disposed to think that if any one had the temerity to engage in the selling of coal under such circumstances, he must inevitably lose what he invests or do a pauperized business. That all goes to show what wise judges we are of each other.

Of course, if a dealer delivered 2000 pounds every time he sold a ton of coal, he would not realize as much as when he reduces the quantity a few hundred; and his profits would be still further curtailed if, instead of making his load all coal, he permitted some of the un-bituminous, un-carboniferous associate of coal in its native state, and commonly known as dirt, to remain in the consignment. But, say those who are immediately interested, are not the prices sufficiently high to justify the dealer in giving full measure and excluding the dirt? Even with such falling off from his net gain, would there not, at \$5.50 a ton, be enough of a margin left to pay him well, especially in a community of 60,000 people, every one of whom depends upon him and not in the least upon themselves for their fuel? We can only answer in the affirmative, with some doubts as to whether either the question or the answer will accomplish any good in the premises.