

American citizens are deprived of their religious liberty in this our boasted land of freedom and equal rights to all men. Our persecutors seem to forget, or else they never knew, that it was for their religious liberty that our forefathers left the intolerance of the old world and crossed the mighty deep to come to this free land, where they might worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own conscience. We claim the same privilege today, and we also believe in allowing all men the same privilege—let them worship how, where or what they may.

Moreover, while the Gospel of salvation is free to all mankind there is neither injunction nor inclination to force it upon any who do not want it.

By way of remarks on the episode, the NEWS feels only to say, briefly, that there is little doubt that Complaining Witness Caughman and Trial Justice Taylor will see and regret the error of their course, if they have not already done so; that our brethren will be blessed and have strong friends multiplied unto them because of the injustice and contumely heaped upon them; that the incident will be sanctified and made beneficial in every respect; and that in proportion to the humility, faith and wisdom of the Elders the labor of warning the people will be prospered, and the great work and glorious purposes of the Lord will be hastened to their consummation.

CORRUPTION IN CITY POLITICS.

Inhabitants of large cities, especially cities where machine rule has held sway for any length of time, ought to find mighty interesting reading in the developments which a legislative committee has recently been bringing to light in New York. It has long been a marvel how the police captains, justices, inspectors and whatnot of the national metropolis managed to accumulate wealth with such extraordinary rapidity. From the most moderate circumstances, these officials, or many of them, have bounded in one short term into affluence. They have made no secret of their prosperity, but have moved ostentatiously into their new and costly homes, and their families at once have begun to put on all the style of a bonanza king. Costly furniture, carriages and horses, trips to Europe, boxes at the opera, and all the other evidences of easy if not extravagant expenditure, have been before the public eye for years, and only lately has the exhibit seemed to excite particular attention.

But a change in the political complexion of the legislature at last gave opportunity for an investigation into the *morale* of the municipal service; and the abundance of the evidence that was immediately forthcoming shows how brazenly and defiantly the scandal has been carried on. The crusade inaugurated and bravely maintained by Rev. Dr. Parkhurst has also contributed its portion to the present disclosures. The better element of the population finally woke up to the gravity and the disgrace of the situation, so that there now seems no reason to doubt that the investigation will be searching and the outcome salutary equal to all expectations.

Certainly the results thus far are most sensational. Gross corruption in high places has been established

beyond doubt. An outrageous system of blackmail, the victims being the unfortunates whose vocation is under the ban of the law, has been widespread and lucrative. Immunity from raids and prosecutions has been purchased by monthly payments, which were collected regularly by ward detectives or officers, and turned over to the superior officer, who permitted the roundman a small percentage for his services and shamelessly put the balance in his own pocket. Testimony of the most positive and straightforward character has established these and similar charges, and lo, there is great quaking in Tammanydom, for the end is not yet, and the beginning has scarcely been made. A scandal whose proportions threaten to exceed even those of the Tweed infamy, is an event that in all probability will have to be chronicled before the year 1894 is ended.

IRRIGATION SCHEMES.

The dispatch which appeared in the NEWS a few days ago, announcing that a contract had been let at Minneapolis for the construction of an extensive reservoir and canal system in Arizona, refers to the greatest individual scheme yet inaugurated in the United States for the reclamation of desert land. The amount of work to be done under the contract is valued at \$2,000,000, and it is to be completed by January 1, 1896. It includes a storage dam 150 feet high at Horseshoe Bend, on the Verde river, a diversion dam on the stream near Mount McDowell, and 110 miles of canal work. The purpose is to reclaim 400,000 acres of land which is expected to be classed among the choicest grain and fruit raising soil in Arizona. The scheme has been under way for about three years, being operated by some of the residents of Phoenix, and by heavy capitalists of Minneapolis, Minn. The preliminary surveys have cost already a hundred thousand dollars. It is understood that actual work on the canal system will be commenced by July 1st, and it is anticipated that in eighteen months there will be flowing through the canals a stream of 5,000 feet of water per second, made constant by the Verde river and the storage of water in reservoirs during the spring freshets.

Such enterprises as these, when carried into practical operation, are a far more prolific source of wealth and development to a territory situated as Arizona is than are a good many of her mines. The investment of two millions in a canal system is the smallest item to be considered. The report on the feasibility of the scheme shows that for the extent of the ground to be covered the expense of canal and reservoir construction is comparatively small. The further investment necessary to bring the tracts of land within the canal range under cultivation is largely the ordinary labor of farm and garden work which will produce its own reward each season. In addition to this it is estimated that after 1896 the additional profit to Arizona from the cultivation of the 400,000 acres will be not less than \$10 per acre, or \$4,000,000 per year.

While Utah has no opportunity for a

single irrigation scheme of such magnitude as the one referred to, there is ample field for many smaller ones which in the aggregate will go far beyond the figures given. The system of storage reservoirs has received little attention as yet in this Territory, reliance for water supply being placed mainly on the mountain streams, which are not so uncertain in their quantity as in many places in Arizona. But the additional acreage that could be brought into cultivation and be made to add to the wealth and welfare of Utah is yet very large. Recent efforts in Sanpete, Millard and other counties to increase the water supply for the summer months by the reservoir system are meeting with excellent success, and in the greater part of the Territory the small reservoir system could be made available with profit. Large reservoirs elsewhere have been a source of danger to their localities, and the topography of the country here is scarcely suitable for them. But there is hardly a canyon in which a system of small storage reservoirs could not be placed along the mountain stream and be made to supply, in many instances, a tenfold greater quantity of water for the summer months than is available at present, as the water now runs to waste at a season when it cannot be utilized. With the steady increase of population in the Territory and the necessity of increasing the agricultural production, the time seems close at hand when the system of small storage reservoirs in the canyons of Utah will receive close study and practical demonstration.

SILVER THE STANDARD.

Referring historically to the matter of English coinage, and how the silver pound was originally the unit of value, although the effect of recent legislation and the narrow interpretation thereof has made of gold the standard by which the other metal has to be valued and used, the Cleveland *Plaindealer* makes a few terse and telling points. It was in the reign of Charles II that the coin called the guinea came into existence, the name being taken from the fact that the gold from which the coin was made came from the Guinea coast in Africa, whence a large amount had been brought. This coin was to contain 20 shillings and be the same as the pound sterling. In 1717 gold was made the unit of value and the pound was declared to contain £3 17s 10½d, and gold and silver were declared to be legal tender for debts to any amount. This continued to 1816, when gold was declared to be the only legal tender and the sovereign was coined to represent 20 shillings to the pound, or 240 pence.

It is accordingly evident that while it was divided into 240 coins called pence and denarii, the pound weight of silver was the original measure of value in England and all western Europe. Twelve of these pence were called a shilling or solidus, and 20 shillings weighed a pound of silver bullion. Hence the letter S stood for shilling and the character £ meant the same as lb. Thus the silver pound in England, as the silver dollar in America, was the unit of value; and the