

mision by letter to a Presbyterian congregation, what then? Or suppose a member of such a congregation should announce his belief in the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon? Would the former be given the right hand of fellowship, and would the latter be permitted to retain his standing? According to Rev. Sawin, modern Presbyterianism has become remarkably liberal, in fact too liberal to be consistent or to long retain its identity; for any religious society that tolerates among its members all forms and shades of religious belief cannot long perpetuate one of its own.

Presbyterianism in Troy seems to be a very different creed from Presbyterianism in Utah, for here it denies recognition, even as Christians, to tens of thousands of people who most ardently believe in Christ as the Son of God, for no other reason than that those people believe other scriptural doctrines which Utah Presbyterians reject. The fact is that all the Protestant creeds are crumbling. The inconsistencies existing between them and the Scriptures, and between their own integral parts, make it impossible to perpetuate them in the forms they have been wearing.

#### THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT.

Many of the readers of the "News" have followed with deep interest the so-called Zionist movement, which contemplates the establishment of a Jewish state in the Holy land. A convention of friends of the movement in this country, has been called in May, the place to be decided on later, for the purpose of selecting delegates to a world's congress to be held at Basle in the month of August.

The first congress was held last year at the place mentioned, most of the expenses being borne by Baron Edmund de Rothschild, who is largely interested in horticultural enterprises in Palestine and who has demonstrated that the country can be reclaimed and made prosperous in the hands of experienced laborers.

The movement has many friends and many influential enemies. The latter claim that political considerations present obstacles impossible to overcome. The former believe the scheme a practical one and claim that a Hebrew state can be established by refugees from Russia and Austria and that its economical success will be assured if Jews in other parts of the world will purchase their olives, wine and other products of their brethren in Palestine. The very fact that the movement is being so extensively agitated is one of the remarkable signs of the times which cannot escape the observation of those who believe in "the more sure word of prophecy."

#### HIGH BUILDINGS.

In large cities land in good business locations becomes extremely valuable. This fact coupled with the invention and perfection of the elevator which makes the tenth or twentieth story as accessible as the third or fourth was when stairways were used, has impelled real estate investors to erect very tall buildings. When the Masonic temple, with its twenty stories was erected in Chicago, it was regarded as the acme of daring architecture; but a few years later the American Tract society of New York went four stories farther skyward by erecting a structure of iron coated on the outside with a layer of brick, which contains twenty-four stories.

Then no man could answer the question how high into the air venture some architects would dare to go, and

for some years the sky-scraper problem has been agitating several large American cities, especially Chicago and New York. About two years ago, as an exploit of "yellow" journalism, yet with a well feigned air of good faith, the New York World published a graphic description, accompanied by plans and big pictures, of a building two hundred stories high. One building such as the World portrayed, was a city. Its corridors were veritable streets. It contained an independent system of water works, a lighting plant, churches, theaters, school-houses, stores, manufactories, etc.; and elevators took the place of street cars, affording ready transportation.

Whether it would be either practicable or profitable to erect a building two thousand six hundred feet high—which would be the height of one containing two hundred stories, allowing the usual thirteen feet to each—is a problem architects and financiers may figure and theorize upon, but Chicago, through its board of aldermen, has decided that the experiment shall not be tried in that city. The board lately passed an ordinance limiting the height of buildings to 130 feet, or ten stories. The chief objections to the sky-scraper are the frightful mortality likely to result in case one of them should fall or be burned. Horrible scenes must ensue were a fire to prevent the denizens of the upper floors from descending on the elevators, and were one of the excessively high buildings to be toppled over by a wind, earthquake or other cause, it would crush other structures in the way of its fall for a distance equal to its entire height, or length rather, and the loss of life in the falling building and in those on which it fell, and in the adjacent streets, would very likely be appalling. Chicago has done well to draw the line at ten stories.

#### AMERICA'S GREATEST PROBLEM.

War clouds may overshadow it and when they pass away the silver question may distract the attention of the people from it; but greater than the Cuban or the silver question; far greater than a war with Spain would be, so far as ease of solution is concerned, looms up before America, with ever increasing magnitude, the problem of political spoils. When Cuba is free; when the war with Spain is over, if one should happen; and when the monetary standard of this country is settled, there will still remain the greatest problem of them all—how to rescue from political spoils the highest interests of the people in respect to the administration of public funds, affairs, offices and institutions.

The gas works of Philadelphia, valued at fifteen million dollars, were recently turned over to a private corporation in flagrant defiance of public opinion. The corporation secured the property by the simple process of buying councilmanic votes. Still more recently another corporation, the Schuylkill Water company, has undertaken to get possession of the city's waterworks by the same means, and there have been some sensational disclosures in connection with its operations. The bribery of councilmen in the interest of the water company has been pretty conclusively proved before a committing magistrate, and several members of the city council have been held on the charge.

Votes in favor of the water company come pretty high, as much as \$5,000 each having been paid for several of them, according to sworn testimony; and the district attorney claims to have positive knowledge that \$25,000 was spent in order to secure a favorable report from the city council committee to which the bill was referred. A member

of that committee has confessed that he received \$500 for his vote in support of a report recommending the passage of the bill. One councilman testifies that he was offered \$5,000 for his vote in favor of the bill when it came before the council, but that he resisted the temptation and voted against the measure. So much for the political morals of a large and typical American city.

Iowa is a state noted for its advanced civilization; but the spoilsmen had such a grip on the state penal, charitable and educational institutions as to make of them merely a means for rewarding partisan services. Asylums for the insane were placed in charge of ward heelers instead of experts competent to properly care for their inmates. Other state institutions were utilized in a similar way, to the creation of a great scandal and a crying abuse. The legislature now in session has attempted to remedy the evil and has passed a bill abolishing all existing boards of trustees of state institutions and placing all of the latter in charge of one board of control under restrictions which are intended to prevent any institution supported by public taxation from becoming partisan spoils.

Iowa's efforts in this line will be watched with great interest in many other states in the Union. The experiment she is trying may mitigate the evil at which it is aimed, but it is doubtful whether the political spoilsman can be so easily deprived of the prizes for which they strive.

#### CAPTURE THE CRIMINALS.

Long experience in all the states of the Union has proven that the offering of rewards for the capture of fugitives from justice is an effective means of aiding in the accomplishment of the ends of the law. The opportunity of earning a considerable sum of money by simply detecting or capturing a criminal, stimulates effort on the part of men who are specially qualified for such work and often results in putting an enemy of society where he can do no further harm.

In another column appears a list of rewards that are being offered by Governor Wells for the capture of members of the band of outlaws that infest contiguous portions of Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, which is commonly known as the Robbers' Roost gang, and is really a formidable aggregation of criminals. Some of them are probably cowards who lack the skill, daring and experience necessary to make them very terrible, but other members of the gang are undeniably desperate and dangerous men.

Not only is the existence of such a band of outlaws a menace to life and property throughout an extended region, but it is discredit to this State, or rather to the three states named, for the freebooters are first in one and then another; and in the opinion of the "News" Utah's governor is to be commended for the measures he has taken looking to the capture of the criminals. Though his action in offering rewards is independent of the other two states, it is hardly likely that their governors will fail to follow similar lines. It is not probable that the recent gubernatorial conference in this city will result in nothing, nor is it to be supposed that the three governors, or the officers who have their confidence, are such chumps as to make public all that is contemplated in the way of efforts to exterminate the robbers.

The officers of the law, cowboys and other adventurous spirits in the region infested by the outlaws have, in the rewards offered by Governor Wells, an