

while the other exhibits a steady decline on every hand, is well nigh depopulated, bankrupt and out of the race.

Utah has not all the advantages of California and but few of the disadvantages of Nevada. It has no coast line, and no worked-out Comstock lying amid the mountains like a huge skeleton with its bones stripped and broken; no grand forests, but with more than enough population to hold the political fabric together; no magnificent ranges, and no outstanding obligations which are not worth as much as their face calls for. With much the same physical aspects and their disadvantages as Nevada and without the chief natural advantages of California, we have none of the decadence and decrepitude of the former, and all the virility and progress of the latter.

It is in the matter of the chief feature which gave the Pacific coast commonwealth its first prominence that we are now bidding very fair indeed to rival it; in the matter of silver production we have excelled it for years and as to silver not produced are entitled to consider ourselves equal to any division of the land; while our iron deposits, which are excelled by very few in the world so far as known, are scarcely thought of at all. Add to all this the production of everything we need at home, and what we are coming to in the matter of material progress can only be conjectured.

### MRS. SNOW'S STRANGE PETITION.

In last evening's issue of the News the following singular dispatch, transmitted from Washington by the Associated Press, was given publicly:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Mr. Cookrell of Missouri presented a petition in the Senate this morning outside the usual run of petitions. Mrs. Effie G. Snow of Shell City, Mo., represents that her daughter, Laura Snow, aged 19 years, went to Richfield, Sevier county, Utah, and became a teacher in a Presbyterian mission school. She died October 4, 1880, in circumstances that cast grave doubt as to the cause of death. Mrs. Snow says she has been hampered and delayed in getting the facts relative to the death and in recovering the body. It was claimed the death was caused from typhoid fever and before she could return to Missouri and secure proof that typhoid fever was not contagious, she says, the body of her daughter had reached such condition that a medical examination could not be made to determine the cause and manner of her death. Mrs. Snow says this is not the only young woman teacher whose body has been disposed of in such a way as to leave suspicion of foul play. For this reason Mrs. Snow says that an investigation should be made as to the manner this mission is carried on, a request in which citizens of Shell City join.

The above came too late to receive editorial comment, or to give opportunity for investigation last evening into the charges it contains. In fact its incoherence seemed to preclude any very serious consideration of the subject at all until the full text of the petition should be at hand, unless, indeed, the Presbyterian mission in Southern Utah, which appears to be the party assailed, should volunteer information on the subject.

The courtesy of Governor Thomas, however, enables us to throw some ad-

ditional light on the matter. Late in November last he received the following letter:

SHELL CITY, Mo., Nov. 19, 1892.  
To the Honorable Governor of Utah:

Dear Sir—About the last of June, 1892, or first of July, I mailed to care of Mr. Keppler, the county clerk at Richfield, Sevier county, Utah, a judicial petition signed by myself, with a citizens' annex from this place, addressed to the Honorable President and United States Senate. The same and, also, a personal letter to U. S. Senator F. M. Cockrell of Missouri, had just returned to me from Washington, D. C., as it was then too late in the season to secure any action whatever of Congress. Senator Cookrell has promised to present the petition and instructed me to prepare by December, now at hand, a statement from my own standpoint and signed by myself, to be addressed to the Honorable Board of Education and Labor in the United States Senate.

No acknowledgment of that petition has been received from Richfield. Nor has it been returned to me although recently and urgently written for. President Harrison, at the Executive Mansion, has just been notified by me of the petition presumably filed at Richfield court house. Our chief magistrate promptly and courteously directed Private Secretary Halford to acknowledge letter of notification and officially referred the last to the Attorney-General.

My own bitter loss and experience from Territorial conditions during the summer of '89, and later fall of '91, has not inspired confidence in representatives of local, judicial, practice or moral, civil or religious codes—whether orthodox or non-orthodox—among so-called "exceptional populations." On my part, the direct issue must be with the Assembly Board (Home Mission) Pres. Ch., United States of America, because of the human slaughter pens and dens of thieves and liars established and supported in the name of "the work" in southern Utah. The petition calls for an investigation of criminal policy and carelessness in law.

This case must be considered as a woman's cause from sacred maternal relation—too sacred to be identified with any political faction or sectionalism. It may, however, serve to illustrate the fatal effect of orthodox "Church and State" principles in practice and precept, with restrictive sway over secular and public and private interests of American people, free-born. Vox populi, vox Dei. It is also designed to make manifest the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as apprehended by private judgment, in reference to gross abuses of sectarian organization. The errors, if not crimes, of orthodox bigotry and disreputable character, should have visited upon such misdemeanors and misdemeanants the same penalties adjudged to non-orthodox fanaticism and fanatics. Prejudice against the latter appears to operate with unfair dealing in favor of the former, and creates a distinction without a difference in rank, offense and offenders.

I want my petition to be recovered and returned to me for immediate use in its judicial form, e. g., under the circumstances, I feel constrained to make this in formal requisition, trusting that in your high capacity as a government official, you will either order my own to be sent back to me, or yourself, recover and restore the same by self-evident means and authority of proper exercise. I thought of making this application, first, to Governor Francis and the attorney general of Missouri; but prefer to urge the matter in advance, upon your cognizance of territorial affairs and popular rights throughout the whole country.

Very respectfully,  
Mrs. Effie G. Snow.

Upon the margin of this communication appeared the words: "Nevada—our county seat, is the home of Col. William Stone, governor-elect."

The Governor could not but be amazed at the rambling and irrational tone of the letter; nevertheless he sent it to Sevier county with the following endorsement: "Respectfully referred to Mr. Keppler for his information, after which to be returned to me. Arthur L. Thomas."

Early in December it was returned to him, and with it the accompanying letter:

December 6th, 1892.

Governor Arthur L. Thomas, Salt Lake City, U. T.:

Dear Sir:—The epistle of E. G. Snow just to hand, and the note on margin as well as contents read. I received the said petition of Mrs. Snow, in July or August last, but was at a loss what to do with it, and concluded that it must be sent to the wrong address, and waited till I could hear more about it. About three weeks since I received a card from Mrs. Snow, saying to return the petition, which I did about two weeks since. This is all I know about the matter.

Very respectfully,  
A. HEPLER,  
County Clerk.

The foregoing comprises everything that has been obtained up to date concerning the matter. The News has set additional inquiries on foot, however, and hopes to be able to get all particulars that may be necessary for quieting Mrs. Snow's "suspicious" in so far as they have any foundation. Our own suspicion, from all that has been adduced—her own letter and the petition to Congress especially—is that the poor woman is laboring under a pitiful aberration of mind.

### WAR PREPARATIONS.

The Russians are a sluggish sort of people; phlegmatic and not easily aroused, the fields of science, literature and art have but in different cultivation at the hands of the Muscovite where they have any cultivation at all. And yet those people seem to fall in line and keep exact step with all the features of advancement relating to military affairs, and even at times show a disposition to be inventive. They are now turning their attention to ballooning in the army, and the importance of this recently adopted adjunct to warlike operations is thus made more plainly apparent than ever before. The Russians are preparing to adopt the searchlight system in connection with aerial exploration, and we learn that they are meeting with considerable success. In some recent experiments in the lighting of large areas from balloon projectors of 5000 candle power were used, and when these were carried to the height of 2000 feet the rays of the electric light covered a surface of about sixteen hundred feet diameter, in spite of a thick mist. Even at a height of 500 feet a luminous ray could be projected which showed every object within its focus distinctly at the distance of three-quarters of a mile.

In spite of all the protestations of peaceful intent throughout Europe, and the renewed assurances that the