

points that various views have been advanced, and it was the claims of papacy that led to the first thorough investigation of the whole question of inspiration.

Some hold that God through His Spirit dictated the Scriptures word for word, a theory that never was demonstrated and never can be. Others maintain that a few fundamental truths were revealed and that the modes of expressing them were left to the ability of the writer. Another maintains that what is "good" in the sacred books is from God but not the rest; a statement which is pure infidelity inasmuch as it makes uninspired man the judge of the contents of the books, supposing him to know what is right and wrong apart from what has been revealed.

A theory of inspiration which has found many advocates in later years is that holy men were led through the influence of the Spirit to write, and when so doing they were kept by this Spirit operating through their minds to present truths previously known as well as new truths connected therewith. They stated these truths, each one in his own peculiar manner. Inspiration applies to the whole, as a whole, and revelation more particularly to new truths. This theory seems to be a satisfactory explanation of all the difficulties connected with the question. And it is applicable to the writings received as inspired both in ancient and modern times.

The theory deals, of course, only with the Scriptures as they left the hands of the authors. Whatever they may have suffered in the hands of transcribers and translators during past ages is purely human and sometimes erroneous and misleading. It was evidently the purpose of God in not preserving the Scriptures from all errors by a series of miracles, to teach mankind the important lesson that continuous revelation can never be a superfluous blessing, that something more than the written word is needed to guide the Church.

A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE.

The announcement which went forth yesterday evening that no bullion or ore had been received by the banks during the day was true in the sense that it was received, but the explanation is needed that Wells, Fargo & Co. took in a small consignment of contract bullion from the Mingo smelter. This did not represent custom work at all, and was but the working up under contract of ore remaining on hand from what had been there for some time; so that, practically considered, the explanation is the merest matter of form, the substantial fact remaining in exact accordance with the impression which the announcement produced.

Silver continues to tumble; all the producing silver mines excepting less than a dozen on the Pacific coast have have shut down, and the majority if not all of these will soon have to do likewise; thousands of men are thrown out of employment, and of the comparatively few retained on the workings most of them have been or are to

be curtailed in their wages. It is a situation that strikes impartially there, here and everywhere. Those who have not felt it yet will have to do so sooner or later unless the stress of events shall unexpectedly relax. And yet there be those in high places who cannot or will not see the writing on the wall, the examples that have fairly thronged the record for twenty years, showing that as the money of the world contracts the business of the world contracts with it. And the only remedy seriously considered is for the government of the United States to cease buying silver and coining silver dollars! Suppose it does this, will not some one who affects these or thinks he can see the beneficial results to accrue therefrom, kindly point out the why and wherefore, so that we who are less skilled in divination and more given to fatuity may be made to see also?

"No ore or bullion received by any Salt Lake banks today" is an announcement which seems to us such a matter-of-course sequel to the one by telegraph that silver had fallen to 69, that we did not marvel at it in the least.

THE TAX RATE.

Reference to the municipal taxation question, as the same is being dealt with by the City Council, was made in yesterday's NEWS. The different rates proposed with the attendant reasons therefor are not quite as numerous as the councilmen themselves, but nearly so, and if out of the controversy the greatest good for the largest number shall, come the extra expense to which the people are subjected by reason of special sessions will be not only offset but overborne by credits on the other side. Let the best be done that can be done is what we all ought to demand, and as little as we ought to be willing to accept.

Any system of taxation that may be adopted will have objectionable features to some, the number varying in accordance with the extent to which it operates especially against them; so that it is useless to expect any plan to be adopted with no dissenting voices or its enforcement to take place without complaints and opposition. And some people are so constituted that they must grumble anyway, no matter how fairly they are treated. To expect or try to escape things of this kind is idle in the extreme and, we repeat, the proper thing to do is to agree upon that plan which mature judgment unbiased by partisanship and experience uninfluenced by political gain or the hope thereof may suggest, keeping equity and impartiality always in full view.

The citizen parts with a certain proportion of his substance to duly constituted authority at certain times not that he may be ruled or that those who levy the exaction may become legalized highwaymen without restraint, but that the expense of carrying on the corporation of which he is a member may be met and the concern kept in proper running order. The only consideration he receives or can expect is to be exempt from annoyance or loss from

whatever source when the same can reasonably be prevented, the protection of his and his family's persons and property and the education of his children. We all realize that these matters cannot be adjusted to any fixed scale, that peculiar circumstances and varying conditions make it necessary to be discriminating, and thus each corporate commonwealth must be the sole judge of what it must and must not have. But let not those chosen to determine such questions imagine for a moment that because of their positions those for whom and in whose name they act are excluded from all participation in the different subjects as they arise; on the contrary they should have much to say and say it so as to be understood, in order that the servants may have no excuse for going wrong.

The proposition to make the tax rate higher than five mills on the dollar should be considered from two points of view: First, is the revenue or any part thereof designed for private or other objects than such as it may properly be used for? Second, can the city get along with the amount which that rate would produce and neglect no necessary or useful division of the public service or any needed public improvement? And let not the words "properly," "necessary" and "useful" be determined by the lexicon of the politician having in view the welfare of his party nor the speculator or schemer on the lookout for profitable ventures; but rather let the definitions come from a consideration for and reference to the wishes of the majority and such matters and things as are so apparent that nothing need be said regarding them.

Let the vexation of taxation be reduced to its lowest possible limits consistent with the welfare and progress of the community, and it does seem to us that this ought to be accomplished on a five-mill basis. Suppose it be tried, anyway, and then if sufficient reasons can be shown for raising the rate, there will be found less opposition for so doing.

THE RUSSIAN EXTRADITION TREATY.

Without being made familiar with its purport and knowing nothing of its text, the much-talked-of extradition treaty with Russia was promulgated to the people of the United States by President Cleveland on the 5th instant and it went into effect on Saturday last. A summary of the document had previously been published and circulated; but this proved to be incomplete and therefore to some extent misleading, and as it is a document of considerable importance and creates new conditions with reference to our relations with a friendly power, such things should not be. Much of the language is, as is customary, redundant if not in some cases superfluous, the object being to make everything secure even at the expense of words and the waste of time in reading them.

The offenses for the commission of any one or more of which a person will be delivered up by either government on demand being made are as follows: