

tinued to hold until Jan. 1st, 1893, and until their successors are elected and qualified, but no longer. And should there be any incumbents whose terms do not expire under the old law until July, 1893, they will vacate on the 1st of January, 1893, or when their successors, elected in November, 1892, are qualified.

Thus three school trustees, are to be elected in each school district, in the next coming November, who are to serve for one year, but will not qualify and take their offices until January 1st next. Three school trustees are to be elected in each district in November, 1893, who will hold their offices for two years, but will not qualify and take their offices until January 1st, 1894. The school elections will be biennial from the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1893.

This appears to us to be plain sailing. The only snag in the way is the doubt in some minds as to the trustees whose terms did not expire in July, 1892. The law says they shall hold until January 1st, 1893, and until their successors (elected in 1892) are qualified "and no longer." The law intends to make a new start in school trusteeships this year, so the terms of all present incumbents, whenever elected, will expire on the 1st of January, 1893. These are our views on this question and we believe they are correct.

A GREAT COKE REGION.

A SPECIAL bulletin is devoted by the Census Bureau to the production of coke in the Pocahontas Flat Top region which comprises Tazewell county in Southwest Virginia, and Mercer and McDowell counties in Southeastern West Virginia. In 1883 only 200 ovens were employed. In 1889 there were 1833 in operation and 631 in course of construction. The value of coke at the ovens increased from \$44,000 in 1883 to over half a million in 1889. This region furnishes over 2,000,000 tons of coal for the Atlantic seaboard. It also supplies the blast furnaces and foundries of Virginia and Northern Alabama. The coal fields of the region are owned by a trust. They comprise 175,000 acres of actual coal lands. The immense development going on shows that the South is entering extensively into the iron and steel industry. Pennsylvania is being left behind, and the strikes of the future may be looked for in Virginia or Alabama.

WHERE LIES THE CONSISTENCY?

THE Rev. B. Fay Mills, who is conducting the religious "revival" meetings in this city, has been taken to task, in a published open letter, by Mr. David Utter. The strictures of the latter are directed toward a solitary expression used by the revivalist in one of his sermons. The statement to which exception was taken can be best defined by a quotation from Mr. Utter's letter, and we here present an excerpt:

"I write to protest against the second point of your sermon, which, as I understood it, was that those who do not believe

that Jesus Christ is God cannot be pure in heart. If you had argued that a man's heart could not be right without in some sense accepting Christ as a Savior I should not say a word, for in some sense every right-hearted man of today is a follower of Jesus, and perhaps every good man owes something to Christ's teachings.

"I believe there are righteous men of every name. There are Jews right in this city whose righteousness and purity of life ought to shame you in this condemnation. I may be a partial judge, but I believe that the Unitarians of our country are in the main a righteous people."

It appears to us that the meaning of Mr. Mills was perfectly clear, and that it is stretching far beyond his intention to take it that he intended to convey the impression that it is impossible for man to be "in some sense" righteous and yet not believe Christ to be God. It cannot be that the gentleman intended to say that men who do not believe in the divine character of Christ are necessarily bad—that they are immoral, dishonest and fraudulent. The speaker was speaking from a Bible standpoint, including the claims and teachings of Christ Himself. From this platform he must view an acceptance of Jesus of Nazareth as God as a part of righteousness and pure heartedness; as a consequence, that those who reject Him in that character are to the extent of that repudiation, not right or pure in heart.

The scriptures are clear on the question of Christ's own claim to divinity, and the efficacy of His blood as a sacrificial atonement for mankind. These claims are either true or false. Those who hold them to be untrue seek to place Him in the light of the most gigantic fraud that ever appeared on the earth. We are unable to understand how any person can accept Him as being "in some sense a Savior," and at the same time maintain that He was a pretender and that He therefore belonged to the class to whom He administered His terrible rebukes—the hypocrites. Accepting Him merely in the same light as Socrates, or any other mere moral philosopher, does not alter the situation. No other moral teacher made such claims as He did, and if it be held that He represented Himself in a false light, those who assume such a position regarding Him place Him below the level of moral teachers who have never asserted that they were more than ordinary men.

Mr. Mills, in stating that the acceptance of Christ, in the capacity in which He presented Himself, was a part of righteousness, only re-asserted what Jesus Himself insisted upon. It seems to be a strained inference to presume that the gentleman meant it to be understood that in his estimation there are no Jews who are righteous in a worldly sense. He doubtless does claim that in their non-acceptance of the Savior in His divine character they failed in that respect, in not conforming to what every sincere Christian must believe to be a part of righteousness, and therefore necessary to absolute purity of heart. The Redeemer was personally rejected by the forefathers of the Hebrew race. Had they, on the contrary, received Him, they would not have been under the condemnation which, according to the Scriptures, He pronounced against them.

It seems to us that, from the standpoint of Christianity, as defined by the Bible, the position of Mr. Mills has the quality of consistency, while that can hardly be said of the attitude of people who repudiate the claims made by Jesus Himself to being of divine character and yet profess to accept of Him as in some sense a Savior.

MR. GLADSTONE ON SILVER.

SEVERAL years ago Mr. Gladstone's view of monetary standards was published in the Manchester (England) *Guardian*. This was reproduced in a recent issue of the *American Banker*, from which the following is taken:

"The standard of value, which is the great instrument of exchange, is itself a commodity, and, being such, is itself subject to fluctuation. Such fluctuation is economically an evil, and every wisely-governed state should seek to have for its standard of value the commodity which is the least subject to fluctuation. That commodity, as I conceive, is gold, and to adopt any other standard or to add to gold any other metal more subject to fluctuation than gold would be to increase that fluctuation, and therewith the consequent inconvenience or distress. If a change were made which should of itself lower the value of sterling money in which debts are payable, this would be an additional and most formidable mischief. Thirty or forty years ago it was very commonly thought that gold had undergone a very heavy depreciation. There is now an opinion, that it has been artificially and very largely forced up in value. My belief has been all along that any increase or any decrease in value which has taken place has been within very narrow limits. I cannot deny that the action of certain great Continental States may have had a limited effect in raising the exchangeable value of gold. Such action has arisen, I must suppose, from a desire to attain or approach to the best possible standard; and while I regret the inconvenience which may be due even to a minor change of value, there will be a future compensation in the results of a policy that extends the area over which the best and most stable standard is in use. I also observe that incidental contraction may be counteracted by incidental expansion. It is at this time thought by many persons that South Africa is to make a material addition to the available gold currency of the world. I personally am aware of no sufficient reason why we ourselves should not effect a moderate addition to it by the gradual introduction of a carefully limited system of issuing notes smaller in value than five pounds. But I am convinced that any search for industrial relief of whatever kind from legislative alteration in the basis of our exchanges, great and small, which is gold, would be a barren and hopeless quest, diverting men for the time from efforts after practical thrift and improvement, and ending in substantial, perhaps in bitter, disappointment."

Unless Mr. Gladstone has changed in his opinions, free silver coinage will not receive much support from his government. But then, like all men of progressive mind, the "Grand Old Man" modifies his views with the increase of light, the effect of experience and the change in surrounding conditions.

The name of the first Odd Fellows' lodge organized at Stockholm is John Ericsson.