

ly?" the answer is: Yes, if you will permit the insertion of the word "Probate" as printed above in brackets before the word "Court," and the striking out of the words which we have printed in italics, "as all also other claimants." With these amendments, you state the case correctly.

The answer to the first question is also an answer to the second: Yes.

As to the third question, "What figure does the sale of the land for taxes out in the case?" the answer is: None whatever. The findings were that Mrs. Stevens being in possession at the time the property was assessed for taxes, claiming the ownership of the property, the same being assessed to her, it was her duty in order to establish adverse possession to pay all the taxes. She failed to do this until after it was sold, when she paid the taxes and it was deeded to her by the county.

The defendants claimed nothing from the tax deed to her, only that she had paid all the taxes assessed against the premises. As a legal proposition, one in possession of property claiming adversely to the real owner is bound by the law to pay all the taxes, and can not acquire any greater or better title by merely allowing the property to be sold for taxes and then buying it in.

MORE OF THE BRIGGS AFFAIR.

It looks as though a certain formidable flock of liberal Presbyterians, otherwise followers of Dr. Briggs, do not intend that the breach in the church shall be allowed to heal, or remain in disguise for a moment. They will not go out of the church, and they will not be quiet in the church. They let no opportunity pass unimproved to stir up the smouldering embers of their revolution, and when there is no regular opportunity for doing so they make one. Their recent demonstration at Cleveland looks like a final notice to the conservatives of the church that war is declared and it will be fought to a finish. Professor Smith, whose "heresy" would seem to be more exasperating, if possible, than that of Dr. Briggs, has not as yet yielded an iota to the clamor. His trial is set for May. It is becoming evident that the liberals are preparing to work the occasion to its full capacity for the fortifying and recruiting of their forces.

SOMETHING TO GIVE THANKS FOR.

In marked contrast to the flippant and sensational thanksgiving utterances of some of the state governors, like Penoyer of Oregon and Walte of Colorado, and to the extremely brief suggestions of others who, while not denying that the people have cause for gratitude, are still disposed to leave it to the people to find out for themselves what that cause is, comes the proclamation put forth by Governor Rickards of Montana on the 8th inst. In devoutness and earnestness it breathes a spirit that even the most unfortunate may cultivate with profit; and in its simple eloquence and exhortation it is to be thoroughly commended. We quote the larger part of it:

Whatever of temporary misfortune

may seem to cloud our hopes or dim the sunshine from our lives counts as naught before the unmeasured gifts of God. While the current of prosperity has not been as bountiful as in times past, and the unsettled business conditions of the country have been reflected upon the industrial life of this state, we have much to be thankful for and should unite in offering up to the Divine Father that meed of praise due to the Giver of all good. To Him we owe the blessings of health and hope and whatever of prosperity that has entered into our temporal affairs, and unto Him we must look for the kindly offices of Providence in shaping into usefulness the lives we lead. Thanksgiving and prayer teach us the value of happiness one to another when the shadows of misfortune have fallen and the heart has grown weary with an unrealized hope. Let the people of Montana gather in their usual places of worship, or at their homes, and give proper observance to the day, recognize the hand of God in the transmutation of life, thankful for the blessings we enjoy, and with humble spirits and grateful hearts implore Divine guidance in all that concerns the welfare and prosperity of individuals, communities and states.

BRANDING CRIMINALS.

From the point of view taken by Western civilized nations, the people of the Orient have some decidedly unique punishments for the criminal class. It may be that in some cases these are more vigorously as a deterrent upon individuals who have an inclination to disregard law than do our methods, yet for humanity's sake the practice of barbarities cannot be commended even as against the most incorrigible.

The Chinese board of punishments having under its jurisdiction the district of Soochow has decided to try a new method with robbers who are taken in that section. For several years past the rivers of Soochow have been infested with organized bands of thieves who have excellent opportunities for hiding in the wild region along the streams, and who maintain themselves by a system of piracy. They mingle among people in the towns, and upon a signal which brings concerted action perpetrate a series of thefts and retire to their places of concealment. In their practice they also make passengers on river steamers victims of systematic robbery.

Long terms of imprisonment have not been sufficient to break up this business, so the board has concluded to try something else. By a rule just promulgated, those who actually engage in the robberies and others who aid them by concealment or otherwise are subjected to a punishment by which their identity will be ever afterwards established. For the first offense the criminal is to be branded on the right cheek with the characters for police (thief), and for the second on both cheeks.

The new order goes into effect against thieves caught on board vessels at any of the Chinese ports. By this means offenders may be known at a glance by the police and the public. As the average Chinaman has a superstitious horror of facial disfigurement, and through the fiction of the penalty people will be warned

against convicted thieves, it is expected that the new punishment will be effective as an aid in breaking up the robber bands.

THE TEHUANTEPEC RAILWAY.

Work is to begin next week on the Tehuantepec Isthmus railway, under the contract which our telegraphic dispatches announce has been signed in the City of Mexico. The contractors are an English capitalist and railway builder, Chandos Stanhope, and an American railway man, Joshua Hampson.

The Tehuantepec road will be a great factor in developing that portion of our southern neighbor's territory in which it is located, and will greatly cheapen the cost of transportation to market of Southern Mexican products. There are yet thirty-five miles of road to be constructed, and the contract is that the roadbed will be completed on the main line within three months. This road across the Isthmus, although its length is much less than the lines which in the United States connect with iron bands the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts, is the fifth transcontinental line completed across America in but a few months more than quarter of a century. Truly the wheels of change are rolling fast.

WORTHILY DONE.

The close of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago and the winding up of its affairs in connection with a forthcoming report on the subject to the President, Congress and the nation, suggest to the NEWS the pleasant duty of congratulating Utah Territory upon the excellent work done for her, and the high honor paid her, through the person of Hon. P. H. Lannan of this city, one of the U. S. World's Fair commissioners from this Territory. Mr. Lannan was the only representative from a territory who was given the chairmanship of a committee, also the only one honored with a place on the executive committee—the board of control; and recently he has received the further distinction of being chosen one of the committee of eight to make the final report above referred to and prepare for the national archives the official story of the great Exposition. These honors would of themselves be evidence enough of the gentleman's energy and usefulness in the work now nearly done; but the people of Utah who visited Chicago need no such testimonials as to his efficiency and zeal. The NEWS has not yet heard of a single Utah visitor to whom Mr. Lannan was not all courtesy and affability, nor of one who went without any favor that it was in his power to obtain. We have every reason to believe this influential interest in his own people was manifested in behalf of one and all, regardless of any other qualification than Utah citizenship. The ladies and gentlemen from this Territory whose duties have required their almost constant presence in Chicago in connection with the Utah display, agree in this tribute to Mr. Lannan's patriotism and activity; and the NEWS is pleased to give ex-