

vast importance of securing petroleum in quantities for commercial use may be estimated from the fact that scores of millions of gallons are now produced annually in the Pennsylvania oil fields, where but forty years ago the first refined petroleum made in this country was offered for sale in Pittsburgh. Four years later — August 28, 1859 — the first oil well was completed by E. L. Drake, in the valley of Oil Creek. Now the world's supply mainly comes from the United States, the wells of Gallia, Roumania, Canada and elsewhere filling an inferior place.

The discovery of new and important resources in Utah no longer occasions surprise, as there have been so many that almost anything may be expected. San Juan county, while good for grazing, fruit raising and farming to a limited extent, yet has been regarded as the part of Utah of the least value, so much of it is "turned up on edge." There is the strongest probability, however, that its broken acres will prove as valuable as do the lands of other counties; it may be through petroleum as one of its products. At any rate there is something worth going after there, and in due time San Juan is sure to give further evidence of the fact that Utah is "the greatest undeveloped country on the face of the earth."

#### POSTAGE TO MEXICO.

The following letter ought to be of at least pecuniary interest to many readers of the NEWS who have relatives or friends in, and hence correspondence with, our neighboring republic on the south:

COLONIA JUAREZ, Chihuahua, Mexico.  
Editor Deseret News:

We notice in handling the mails from Utah that quite a number of people put five cents in stamps on letters sent to Mexico. This is a waste of stamps. Two cents is all that is necessary.

M. P. ROMNEY, P. M.,  
Colonia Juarez.

#### UTAH ART ELSEWHERE.

The development of artistic talent among Utah young men has been a work of recent years, but in the comparatively brief period in which it has received special attention there have come to the front several artists whose ability is of a high order. Most of the paintings produced have been presented locally, and have not, in all instances, received the recognition which they deserved. An improvement in this latter feature will come in due time with the changing circumstances of the people and the opportunities for art cultivation. In the meantime, some of the more enterprising Utah painters have offered their work for exhibition at the World's Fair and other places, and it has been received and has called forth much favorable mention.

Another instance of this comes from the exhibition given by the Iowa Society of Fine Arts, at Des Moines. Edwin Evans, of Lehi, Utah county, who completed a course of study in the Julien art academy at Paris about

three years ago, forwarded a painting of a Utah harvest scene to the Iowa exhibition, where it was received and given a position. With reference to it, a letter received in this city from C. E. Baldwin, president of the Society of Fine Arts, says: "At our late art exhibition we had the honor of hanging and exhibiting one of Mr. Evans's paintings, *The Harvest*. It was greatly admired, and was fortunate in getting the best light of any of the paintings in the collection. I think that there was more said about this one than any other in the exhibit, and it formed a lasting impression. We are now writing up some of the representative exhibitors, and illustrating the article with reproductions of their works. The article is to come out in our state magazine, the *Midland Monthly*, April number, when we will be pleased to reproduce this painting."

In the success of Mr. Evans and others who have pursued a like course of producing paintings of merit and exhibiting them in various states, there is an encouragement for the Utah men to look for a broader field for their pictures than within the Territory. Experience has shown that they have nothing to fear in the competition or by comparison with artists elsewhere, and that their productions will be judged on their merits. By taking for subjects Utah scenes, which cannot be surpassed elsewhere for the delicate work of the pencil and brush, and by availing themselves of such opportunities as may be within reach in high class art exhibitions in the older states, our local painters may not only reap fame and reward for themselves, but may aid in bringing Utah into favorable prominence in a direction that is specially desirable. It is very gratifying to note that in thus reaching out, the ability of Utah artists is bringing to them a goodly measure of distinction among their fellow-professionals.

#### ANOTHER HERESY CASE.

Once in a while the religious denominations of the world are disturbed by the assaults of independent spirits in their own ranks upon the old ramparts of their declarations of faith. Heresy trials and schisms are the usual immediate result, while the ultimate effect must be the downfall of dogmas not resting on eternal foundations. It is self-evident that the leading dissenters are not always right; often they continue groping in darkness as dense as that from which they claim to have found an escape, but their efforts are none the less, at least negatively, fraught with blessings to their fellowmen, since much tearing down of old ruins and leveling of the ground is necessary before the heavenly structure of the Church and kingdom of God can be reared on earth, in all its magnificence.

One of the latest heresy trials is that of Professor Woodworth, of the University of California, and Maxwell, a student in the institution. Both were until recently members of a Baptist church at Berkeley, and were expelled from that association on account of charges preferred against them by the

pastor. Not a shadow was thrown on their moral character, but some of their views were pronounced heterodox, and they were dealt with accordingly.

Some time ago the student commenced to express views contrary to the accepted faith of his co-religionists. The pastor and deacons told him that he must retract or relinquish all hopes of associating with Baptists in this world and with the blessed ones in the next. At this point Professor Woodworth, who was Sunday school superintendent, interfered and published his own views. He declared among other things that the absence of error in the Bible is true only of the spirit and not of the matter of the text; that the trinity are only three of many manifestations of the one God; that the fall of man was only from a childish innocence, not from holiness; that salvation by the death on Calvary is to be understood symbolically; that righteousness of faith is not imputed to us, but is faith's outward manifestation; that baptism is not prerequisite to church membership, nor to the Lord's supper.

A strange mixture of truth and error is this, but why an honest believer in such doctrines should be considered disqualified for membership in the Baptist church is not clear. That church, with others, teaches the incomprehensibility of the Godhead and disclaims Divine authority in its leaders as well as a continuation of inspiration and revelation. Why then, is not the opinion of any of its members on points of doctrine equal to the opinions of those who framed the articles of faith, since Divine authority is not claimed for these? And why should not, from a Baptist point of view, the opinions of an eminent scholar of today be preferable to the views of the framers of the old confession of faith, when the fact is considered that theological science has advanced in later years beyond anything that was anticipated a hundred years ago? It is quite conceivable that the confession of faith itself contains heresies and needs revision.

One of the more important points in this heresy controversy relates to the birth of our Savior, and it is noteworthy as showing how utterly helpless are the theologians who depend on the written word alone for information concerning doctrines. The professor abandons the generally accepted view and claims that Christ was "a product of evolution," borne into this world as every other child. Now, one would think, a question of this nature has already been settled and is beyond dispute, except the plain Gospel statement is to be denied. But, behold, recently a very ancient manuscript of the gospels has been discovered. It is in the Syriac language and must have been translated from a text older than any now extant. In Matt. I, 16 it reads: "Jacob begat Joseph; Joseph, to whom Mary the virgin was espoused, begat Jesus, who is called Messiah." Eminent German scholars are exhausting their resources of learning and logic to show that this is an error of the Syriac translator, as it no doubt is, but all the same, it places the heretics in a position to maintain that the received text is the erroneous one and that this con-