

hammedanism, notwithstanding its crude ethics, and its fatalism and superstition, was a strong plea for human nature as molded by the Creator, against the brutality of those ages. And it roused the world from the lethargy into which it was sinking. Wherever it flourished it erected schools of science, philosophy and art, equal to those of Athens and Alexandria. For a brief time it became the standard bearer of civilization, and as such its mission was most beneficial. It has been remarked that it was Islam that gave rise to the scholastic movement and opened up the world to ancient thought. To Islam much that is distinctive in modern literature—the prose story, the love romance, the lyric—owes its existence. But after having given the world a new impulse toward freedom, it sank helplessly back into weakness, sensuality and stagnation, and there it is today, still claiming supremacy and wielding its fading power with its old-time sternness.

There can hardly be any doubt that a final struggle between Islam and Christianity must ensue, and it is this event for which the nations of Europe seem to be reluctantly preparing themselves.

#### **LIBELOUS PUBLICATIONS.**

In the heat of a political campaign, when party spouters are on the stump they frequently make exaggerated and untrue statements, and some people find excuse therefor in the fact that a speaker often gets a little "rattled" when before a noisy audience and says what he really would not do in his sober senses. The excuse is a rather gauzy one, yet thin as it is, a newspaper that deliberately makes untrue statements about the candidates on an opposing ticket does not have even that much covering, and therefore is without excuse in voluntarily making untrue and pusillanimous attacks upon candidates of any political party.

By the laws of Utah it is made a crime for any person, directly or indirectly, to pay or offer any consideration to any voter, or to offer or promise any office, place or employment, or endeavor to procure any office, place or employment, in order to induce any elector to vote for any person or persons at any election in this State. The penalty for this crime is a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment in the State prison for not more than five years, or both fine and imprisonment.

For a newspaper to accuse any candidate of having committed this crime, without having good reason for making the charge, is libel; and the offense is all the more aggravated when the accusation is made merely to "roast" the candidate and in the absence of any ability to confute up a truthful accusation against him. Unfortunately, in the present campaign it is notable that just such libelous publications are being indulged in; and what is more, special assaults are directed against such candidates of the opposition as are of good repute and who cannot be truthfully assailed because of any deficiency in integrity or ability for the office they have been named for.

The specific charge is made of violating the provision of law referred to, when in fact the accusation is known to be untrue.

The News is interested in having good men or women installed into office in this county, as in the whole State, whatever be their political affiliations. It has criticized some of the local nominations on both sides of the fence, knowing that both tickets have their weak and strong points, both being a pair in this regard. And having criticized the objectionable features of these tickets generally, the News also feels under an obligation of duty to dissent from and protest against unwarranted attacks upon those better candidates who are presented for the franchisees of the people. These assaults to which objection is raised are not such as arise from mere political differences, but such as unjustly charge unoffending persons with crimes which, if a man were guilty thereof, ought to send him to the State prison for a term of years. It is time that reputable citizens receive in this matter the protection to which they are entitled under the law from unscrupulous or gullible newspaper reporters. And a commencement in this line would be better now than at a subsequent date, that the business may be settled for all time in this State.

The News is fully aware that sometimes the best and most careful newspapers are imposed upon in the source of their information, and occasionally in the character and conduct of their employees. In such an event the chief management does not hesitate to make honorable amends; for no reputable newspaper can afford to do a deliberate injustice to any citizen. The last Legislature comprehended this situation and passed a law providing for retractions and the effect thereof in cases where candidates for public office have been unjustly assailed, the retraction to be made editorially a given time before the election. Since libelous publications have been made in this city, it is now in order for retractions to come in the next few days, so as to comply with the spirit of the law, whether or not civil or criminal proceedings are contemplated on behalf of the injured parties.

#### **H. M. STANLEY'S COLOR.**

According to a story in the New York World, a German physician believes that the famous African explorer, Henry M. Stanley, gradually is turning negro. Originally Mr. Stanley was very light-complexioned, but at present he has the appearance of a mulatto, and quite dark at that, a peculiarity that can be accounted for on no other supposition than the one ventured by the German scientist.

In explanation of the phenomenon it is stated that, as is well known, the climate of certain portions of Africa is extremely dangerous to foreigners. The high land is surrounded by swamps and the atmosphere is filled with malarial germs. Almost invariably Europeans are attacked with severe forms of the fever. Stanley, so the story runs, conceived the

idea of borrowing some blood from the negroes and had it transfused into his own veins. He believed that this would be an effective means of preventing the disease, as the natives are not attacked with it, and he is said to have submitted to the operation five times. The consequence was that he remained well when his companions were stricken down.

The apparatus used for the purpose consists of a rubber tube with a bulb in the center. Before using it the air is forced out by filling the bulb and tube with a warm solution of salt. The principal persons of the performance are placed side by side and the tubes inserted into the veins. Then blood is pumped from the one to the other, until the desired quantity has been obtained.

Now it is claimed that by this process, Mr. Stanley not only became immune to the dreadful fever, but that the African blood he absorbed gradually is working a metamorphosis in his complexion, by the development of the peculiar pigment to which the ebony color of the African skin is said to be due. The fact—if such it is—must be of peculiar interest to anthropologists.

#### **HISTORY-MAKING EPOCH.**

The Woodland, Cal., Democrat believes that of political principles this is a history-making epoch; that the present presidential campaign is producing real, living literature. It also says the toiler and the tiller cannot complain of opportunity. This is a government by majorities; and the majority rests with the agricultural and labor classes—in fact, with those classes which feel most the burdens of the government. Again, there is no end to information on all questions at issue. Never since the civil war has there been such agitation. Never before has greater wisdom been displayed. The sociologist, the economist, the philosopher, the preacher, the teacher, the statesman, the editor and the author have been heard. The ablest and the wisest men have earnestly delivered their messages, from the rostrum, the street corner and the pulpit; in the newspaper, the journal and the magazine, and by the pamphlet and the bulletin. The voice of the people is being heard. The discussion is carried beyond party management. The school boy, the college student, the farmer and the workman take part.

All this may be true in a sense; and yet, who can say that, with all the free discussion, with all the hearings given to sociologists, economists, philosophers, preachers, editors and statesmen, with all the exuberance of human wisdom displayed, the result will be to avert the great danger that threatens the existence of the Republic. There are wise men on both sides of the great issues; there are brainy men diametrically opposed to each other; and each says the policy of the opposite side is ruinous. If the wise and the great are right in this conclusion, then how is ruin to be avoided? Surely the wisdom which offers such a condition is foolishness, after all, and the work of this history-making epoch will be chaotic history. It takes more than free discussion; more than pulpit