

snow with which the sun is covered. "You can see," he asserts, "at times for days, the forms of these spots as they fill up through these veils of snow flakes. There is nothing known to man but snow that could be raised, removed and vaporized into such vast quantities and into invisibility in such a short space of time as it is on the surface of the sun. Nothing but snow could perform the functions or the characteristic phenomena that are exhibited upon the sun." In accordance with this theory the storms that have been observed on the surface of the sun are simply snow storms forming protuberances that were supposed to be flames.

The thought suggested by this view of the central orb in our planetary system is this, that scientists as yet are very far from a position in which to speak with absolute authority on subjects pertaining to the construction of the universe. If it be admitted that the sun is a snow covered world instead of a fiery orb, the whole ingenious theory of the evolution of the worlds from nebulous clouds falls to pieces. Then the existence of the planets and their relations to one another will have to be explained in some other way. Every new suggestion by men skilled in scientific research opens up a wide field for thought and points significantly to the only sure foundation for knowledge.

#### MR. PUTNAM'S IDEA OF JUSTICE.

Justice is something very difficult to measure or describe. A snob once asked Carlyle to define it. "Justice is, whether I define it or not," replied the great Scottish philosopher. Undoubtedly there is an extremely wide latitude for varying ideas of what justice is; but it is a question whether G. F. Putnam Esq., assistant county attorney of Salt Lake county, has not gone far beyond the widest permissible bounds in elucidating his notion of the divine attribute.

In the criminal branch of the Third district court yesterday a young man was placed on trial on a charge of committing fornication. Mr. Putnam, who had charge of the prosecution, arose and stated to the court that the young man was willing to make reparation by marrying the young woman with whom he had committed the offense, but that she had refused to become his wife. On these grounds the prosecuting officer moved that the case be dismissed, and the order was made. The young man, whose guilt of the crime with which he was charged was freely admitted, went scot free.

Precisely what took place between the young man and the young woman in this case, leading up to and following the commission of the offense, is not publicly known, but probably the history of the matter is substantially as follows: The young persons met; he tendered and she received his attentions; under promise of marriage he accomplished his purpose and then scorned her entreaties and laughed at her distress. Under a burning sense of wrong, she invoked the law, and instituted a prosecution against her betrayer.

He then, in order to escape the penalty of the law, expresses his willingness to marry the girl, but she, having learned by bitter experience, what he is, that he is both immoral and perfidious, that his offer of marriage is not due to affection for her, nor to an honorable purpose to do her justice, but solely to his desire to escape punishment for a crime he has committed, is unwilling to confide her future happiness to his care and control, and refuses to become his wife. If this history does not fit this particular case,

then this particular case varies from the standard type.

The refusal of the girl to place herself for the rest of her life in the power of the scoundrel who has already betrayed her to her ruin, removes from him the stain of guilt. He immediately becomes spotless. Justice has no claim against him. The law which makes crimes of seduction and fornication is to be enforced only on perpetrators of those crimes who are not willing to marry their victims. There is, of course, no such provision in the law, but Mr. Putnam has supplied the deficiency.

The theory heretofore held by legislators and jurists that the libertine is an enemy of society, and that his acts of debauchery are crimes against the state, is all wrong. He is not the enemy of society but only of the girl he has wronged. The crime of seduction is not an offense against the state, but only against the single direct victim of it. If that victim declines to further sacrifice herself and her future by marrying the scoundrel who has refused to fulfill his vows and do her justice until the grip of the law has seized him, the courts will not interfere. Such seems to be the doctrine of G. F. Putnam, Esq., assistant county attorney of Salt Lake county, though he probably would not state it quite as elaborately as has here been done. His act in moving for the discharge of a criminal whom it was his duty to prosecute, in connection with the reasons he assigned for it, is the proof that his views are as above set forth.

For the information of Mr. Putnam, and of his principal, County Attorney Van Cott, and of all concerned, the "News" will state that Mr. Putnam's idea of justice in such a case as the one under consideration does not harmonize with the views of the people by the grace of whose suffrages the county attorney and his assistant hold office. On the contrary, Mr. Putnam's course is grossly violative of their sentiments, as well as of the spirit and letter of the law.

In the opinion of the "News" Judge Norrell, who was presiding, gravely erred in granting the motion to dismiss. He should have overruled it, should have rebuked the prosecuting officer of his court for making it, should have ordered the trial to proceed, and, had a conviction followed, should have inflicted a punishment severe enough to meet the demands of justice, vindicate the law, and be a warning to seducers and libertines. When prosecuting officers and presiding judges lend such quasi endorsement to immorality as has been extended in this case, vice receives an impetus, religious workers are discredited, the true standard of morals is scandalized and the ruin of the innocent and unsophisticated is facilitated.

#### THE UTAH VOLUNTEERS.

Californians pay much attention to the Utah boys about to embark for the Philippine Islands. They find that the representatives of this State are fine-looking young men, and, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, visitors to the camp stand about wondering and admiring. This is but another illustration of a fact which so often has been observed, that wherever the sons and daughters of these valleys of the mountains mingle with the rest of the world, they attract attention. It is so whether they are engaged in intellectual or material pursuits.

It is but natural that it should be so. They are the descendants of parents by circumstances carefully selected from among the most advanced people of the earth, and, furthermore, purified in trials and adversities, as precious metals in fire. They have been taught

self-reliance and to lead pure lives and have consequently attained a high degree of physical and moral perfection. The Utah boys are in many respects as David among his brothers, and their sterling qualities are sure to appear whenever the challenge from a Goliath is heard by the army of Israel.

We are glad that the Utah Volunteers attract attention in their camps. We believe that if sent to meet the enemy in sanguinary combat they will be heard from again. Among them is the right material for heroes and this will assert itself whenever the opportunity is presented.

#### NAUVOO NOTES.

The Nauvoo Rustler of the 17th inst., states that Eliza G. Page had died a few days previously, at Lamon, Iowa, at the advanced age of 90 years, and that she taught school in Nauvoo in 1843-4. "In 1865," says the Rustler, "she united with the Mormon Church in Nauvoo," which evidently means that she then became a member of the "Reorganized" church. It is quite probable that some readers of the "News" will remember her, and possibly some of them may have attended her school.

The same paper states that Milton Lynch of Harlan, Iowa, who "was a citizen of Nauvoo during the Mormon era," died April 12; his age is not given, but it must have been considerably advanced. A melancholy interest attaches, in the minds of many persons in Utah, to the passing away of former residents of the City of Joseph.

#### ANOTHER CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

President McKinley has issued a call for 75,000 more volunteers, which number will make the total strength of the army 280,000, including regulars and volunteers. Utah's quota of the new call will be 260. The war department will designate the branches of the service for which enlistments will be taken, and until this is done it will not be known what openings will be presented to Utah men.

There were many patriotic men in this State who could not enlist because there was not room for all of them; but now another opportunity will be given to at least some of the disappointed ones. Particulars as to recruiting have not yet been made known but doubtless will be immediately; and as soon as this is done there is no question about the speedy furnishing of her share by the Forty-fifth State.

Elders Jones and Hyde of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, lectured to a few of the best of us at the court house last night. They put up a strong talk from a Christian standpoint, and also to prove that their Church is the only true Church of God. A number of more or less convincing quotations from Scripture and other coincidences were cited as proof of their claims. The peculiar feature about these gentlemen is that they pattern after Jesus in traveling without a purse, taking no thought of the morrow, what they shall eat, or what they shall drink, or wherewithal they shall be clothed. It is refreshing to see anyone following Christ to this extent whatever their faith may be.—Gunnison (Col.) Champion.

The reason why so many forts in the Spanish colonies are called "Morro" is that this word means "promontory," and a fort built on a promontory is therefore a Morro castle. The one, at Havana is also prison, with a remarkably black record. It ought to be erased from the face of the earth as a protest against the continuation of barbarism in a civilized age.