

opinion, the professional inalter to riot and the man of law and order, the blasphemer and scoffer alongside the Christian and cultivated—all these are there, and out of such a medley is it possible that the refrain will be a "harmonious concourse of melodious sound" or the jargon of "sweet bells jangled, out of tune and harsh?" While hoping for the best, it is as well to fear the worst and thus be better prepared to meet and if possible to overthrow it.

The question of bimetallicism is one that appeals to the profoundest thought of men ripe in experience, thorough in research and capable in expression. It is no more a fit and proper theme for the ordinary politician and his natural ally the corner loafer than would be the subject of prehistoric civilization or the stitch which is dropped from time's fabric through the inevitable defects of the prevailing calendar. We say it with no disrespect to the cause—for it has no warmer or more earnest supporter in the country than the News—that such as we have last spoken of are in the western country almost to a man screechers for "free coinage." In most cases they do not even know what the term means or its application implies; they have, perhaps, a vague idea that it means "more money" and thereby less exertion to get it, and the less they have to say in any place where their words might have some effect the better for us all.

That wise counsels may prevail at Chicago and the best that can be done for the country in this most trying period be done, is our sincere desire. In order to arrive at this it is necessary that the rabble be subdued early and effectually. If we have a grievance against the East it cannot be one that calls for blood or revenge or even hostilities of any kind, and therefore the element spoken of is worse than useless; it is dangerous. We hope to hear that the men of brains, caliber and experience have taken the lead and shown that there is no indictment against our brethren on the Atlantic border or the people further on that is founded in malice or framed in anger. It is more nearly in the nature of a bill of rights, and all we can ask is that the hearing be dignified, impartial and complete.

All eyes are now resting on the World's Fair city, after which they will be turned with eagerness and interest to Washington. We feel assured that if the cause of silver shall be maintained it will be not through the efforts and practices of many of those who are now in the convention but in spite of them. Let good work and good work only be the record that is made up and all will be well.

### THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.

Reference has on various occasions been made in the columns of the News to the method of dealing with the intemperance problem, known as the Gothenburg system. In the beginning of last month a bill was introduced in the English parliament to legalize that system in the United Kingdom, but it was negatived. This causes the Dublin *Lyceum* to review the workings of the system in the place where it first originated. The paper says:

Admitting that some improvement has taken place since the bolag began its operations, there does not, nevertheless, appear to have been progress sufficient to justify unstinted praise of the system, or provoke us to a hasty imitation of it. The convictions for drunkenness in this model city have been increasing during recent years, and the total reached in 1890 was far from furnishing matter for congratulation to the friends of temperance in Sweden. In 1880 the population of the city was 68,447 and the police had to deal with 2101 cases of drunkenness i. e. 30.6 for every 1000 inhabitants. In 1890 the population had risen to 104,215 and the cases of drunkenness had risen to 4624 i. e. 46.33 for every 1000 inhabitants. This assuredly is not progress toward temperance.

There is one circumstance which the *Lyceum* does not mention and which would tend to make the results obtained in Gothenburg less satisfactory. In that place almost every restaurant used to have license to sell intoxicants with the meals served. The consequence was that anyone could order a meal for the sake of the liquor and and drink and pay for this while leaving the food untouched. Against this the bolag was powerless and is so still, unless recent legislative measures have changed the status of affairs. To obtain a true estimation of the workings of the system, it must be observed in places like Bergen where it has been applied to every liquor shop without exception. And there, we believe, it is generally admitted that it has been attended with great success.

### A NARROW ESCAPE.

"He scrawled upon a wall, with his finger dipped in muddy wine lees, 'blood.'" This, but for the high-sounding phrase, reads like it might have come from the city of Denver and referred to events of last week, instead of being taken from one of Dickens's novels. And not only this but many more incidents related in the "Tale of Two Cities" are equally applicable for the period named to the tale of one city—our sister metropolis beyond the divide. It is to be hoped that the worst is now passed, that there will be no more rioting, mobbing and looting, and that peace will spread her white, untruffled wings over the scene, no longer frightened by the hoarse croaking of Myron Reed or the dismal and direful imprecations of Governor Walte.

Is it going too far to say that the desperate men whose cry was "bread or blood" must have taken their cue and found much of their stimulus for an outbreak in the utterances spoken off? We think not. It is customary to hear such language from gutter-snipes and indolent blatherskites, but not from men of character, ability and standing; and when these descend to the practices or expressions of the other kind, what more natural than that the latter see an official and through it a general recognition of their "cause" at last, authorizing them to do very much as they please? Of what avail are property rights or innocent life itself that may then fall in the way of the emboldened and infuriated rioters? Denver escaped narrowly and cheaply.

### A WRONG AND A RIGHT WAY.

In times like these "give and take" in a spirit of fairness and with a desire to lighten the burdens as much as possible all around should be the rule. Those who employ labor in particular should be most careful to see that when they have to restrict their operations to meet the contracted business, the laying off resultant is so arranged that the burdens will be equitably distributed and thereby made as light as possible. The News is constrained to remind some of the employers in our midst that they are not doing this; that they are, in fact, taking advantage of the situation to make their business more profitable even than before when times were normal.

We hear of one or two companies whose falling off in traffic is computed at say ten percent. To reduce the pay roll to that extent would of course be proper if thereby no detriment that might injure the business later on took place, otherwise the burden had better be borne for a time. But conceding that the reduction is necessary and safe, there would seem to be no reason for making a greater reduction in labor than is sufficient to recoup the amount lost in business; and the companies spoken of have gone greatly beyond this—have not only more than offset the amount lost by trebling it in the amount saved through reductions in the working force, but have actually added otherwise to their gains by increasing the hours of service per diem of those retained, without a corresponding increase of compensation! This is practicing on the misfortunes of others—extracting gain from sources that need help instead of being as just as the circumstances will permit.

On the other hand we hear of firms and corporations that are doing as nearly right in this matter as is practicable. The men who are laid off are not discharged altogether and their burdens imposed upon those who remain as in the cases above mentioned; the "holidays" go around impartially, so that while all lose a little no one loses all. Is not this a much better plan, to say nothing of the matters of generosity and care for others' welfare?

### RUMORS AND RUMORS.

An eastern paper has a special dispatch which claims to reveal some "inside facts" regarding what is going on at Washington, as well as some that are not and are not going to go on. They are readable, measurably interesting and may be correct for what we of this neglected region know to the contrary. One of the statements in the dispatch refers to the announcement recently made by a New York paper to the effect that it had unquestionable authority to say that the President in his message to the extra session would advocate the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law, and also the postponement of all action on the tariff question until after the financial matter is disposed of. This, the dispatch says, has caused much discussion among the few politicians who are now in Washington,