

done in a copper or galvanized caldron, otherwise the "liquor" will turn leather a bluish color by oxidizing the iron in an iron vessel. Some success has attended steeping the pulp in a wooden vat heated by galvanized steam pipes running through it. Owing to the strength of the canalgre liquor thus made, failure to produce first class leather frequently occurs by putting the hides into too strong a solution at first, thereby "burning" the leather. This is obviated by transferring the hide at a proper time from a weak to a stronger solution—the time of the transfer depending on various conditions to be learned from an instructor or through experience. For upper leather, all time by which the hide is impregnated in removing the hair must be extracted, the Mexicans using a "ball" of hen manure for this purpose; with sole leather they are not quite so particular. When this treatment is followed, it is found that the best of leather can be produced, really without any great expense in the process. The more enlightened method aims to follow the same lines, wasting less material and performing the work in less time than by the cruder Mexican process.

#### REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS.

Teachers of ethics, of modern tendencies, seem to incline to the view that moral training is conducted on wrong principles, unless the subject is taught to love virtue for its own sake and shun vice for a similar reason. Appeals to the consequences, good or bad, are considered as lowering the ideal and consequently neutralizing the effects. According to this, every representation of God as a personality who deals out rewards for obedience and punishments for disobedience is wrong, the Supreme Ruler not being capable, morally, of offering "bribes" or manifesting the "vindictive spirit of hate."

There is but little truth in this view. Throughout the revealed word of the Almighty, the lesson is taught by means of history, by biography, by precept, that the consequences of obedience to God's laws are rewards both temporal and eternal, while disobedience brings punishments. But they are not held up in the light of bribes or vindictiveness. They are set forth as the natural results of men's conduct. In many instances the true connection between the act and its result is as plainly discernible as that between a well understood cause and its effect. When, for instance, as in the case of ancient Israel, honor paid to parents brings longevity in the land of promise to the people; or when idolatry is followed by war and devastation of the country, the causes are easily traced. Nor is it difficult to understand why faith in God should bring peace and joy and happiness, or why the fruit of disbelief should be the opposite. Today is but a step from yesterday on the interminable road toward future ages; tomorrow the journey will be continued; if the direction taken in the past is wrong, what else is the present and future likely to be?

In some instances, however, the connection between the act and its

ultimate consequence is much less clear, though not less clearly or emphatically stated. Why should the sins of the antediluvians, consisting chiefly, it seems, in acts of violence and injustice, result in their destruction by a flood? Or the wickedness of the cities of the plain bring down fire from the sky? Why should the opponents of the Priesthood in the wilderness be swallowed up by the earth? All through the history of mankind, both sacred and secular, we find an apparent connection between the moral status of nations and great commotions in nature. No doubt many of them could be explained, were the laws of the universe clear to us, as they are to the divine mind, but even after this admission has been made, the fact remains that others can not be understood except on the supposition that there is a ruling Intelligence who according to His own wisdom and power uses the tremendous physical forces of nature for the training of His children, much as a human father, in his limited sphere. He deals out rewards and punishments as means of encouragement and restraint. The "wages" of sin is death, and eternal life is the "gift" of God, is a scriptural and a philosophical view of the matter. To take an opposite view is to step dangerously near the ground of infidelity.

The manner in which the revealed word deals with the great principles of ethical science is worth while noting, because it gives the key to all successful moral training. Investigation has long ago discovered the important fact that the character of a human being is largely influenced by that which inculcates his mind. His thoughts give a complexion to his heart. In accordance with this fact we find that it is the habitual attention to truth that elevates the soul and brings it into a state of holiness.

Faith and affection are influenced and nourished by contemplation of truth and communion with the objects that deserve our love. Now, the testimony of God Himself to mankind is that by following this rule faith will result in obedience and this will bring ever stronger assurance. It is true, that even proper attention to things divine can be secured only as a gift of God, but it is a grace He will not withhold when sought in a humble spirit. The principles thus embodied are the true foundation of all moral and spiritual training. They admit the free agency of man, and the natural consequences in time and eternity of his conduct; they emphasize the exercise of the Divine will in the education of the human family to a state of moral perfection.

#### AS TO SILVER.

Silver was quoted at 67½ today, the highest it has reached for some weeks. Since it began the present upward tendency a short time ago, it once touched 70, but immediately receded and has since been from one and a half to two and a half cents lower, this being, however, on an average much higher than for any previous length of time since the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law. But whether higher or low, or at some

middle stage meaning neither—this being the case at present—the situation and the lesson imparted thereby remain practically unchanged.

It has become a truism that nothing can maintain a royal station in the field of commerce without being bolstered up at all points by the law, and with so much power it can go further and create royalty out of mentality. A piece of paper, otherwise entirely worthless, becomes all at once more precious than gold or silver through the manumitting wand of a legal fiat, and thus causes many good and even well-informed people to claim that all money should be of paper, leaving the metals to take their alleged proper places in the field of merchandise. However this may be as to both the superior metal, the fact that varying quotations are issued every day goes to show that it has been very nearly accomplished in the case of one of them.

It is continually presented by those who are either not friendly to silver or do not give the subject close attention that that metal is not debased; that it is a full legal tender for all obligations public or private, and thus being equal to gold is not a proper subject for so much controversy. It should be remembered that a piece of paper not worth one cent, when issued by our government with the necessary words and devices upon it, becomes immediately worth \$20, \$100, \$1,000 or any other expressed sum, and is thus not only equal to gold but vastly superior to it. Erase the words and devices, whereby the backing of the government is withdrawn, and the paper is instantly debased and rendered a worthless thing again. So it is with silver; it does not maintain itself by reason of its inherent qualities, but chiefly because the government issues it as money and becomes responsible for it. The metal itself does not change an iota, being as valuable intrinsically under demonetization as otherwise; its apparent rise and fall as exemplified by the bulletins only show that there is more of a demand for it at some times than at others, an advanced price indicating either that the demand is greater or the supply is unequal to the demand; a falling off in the figure of course indicates the opposite condition. It is as a metal in the same position that wheat, pork, cotton and other commodities are in; it has no fixed and definite commercial value at all and is the creature of concomitant circumstances. Whether or not it shall ever be restored to its former estate is a vexed and very much disputed question, which it is reasonably certain will not be answered this year or next.

#### CHOIR IN CALIFORNIA.

The intended trip of the Tabernacle choir to California is now receiving special attention from the press of that state, which contains articles descriptive of the choir's ability and of the career of its leading members. In Sunday's issue of the San Francisco Chronicle there is a two-column article, illustrated by portraits of Prof. Evan Stephens, Prof. W. E. Weihe, George D. Papp, R. G. Easton, Master Charles Pike, Mr. Beattie Dean Allison and Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas