

Alexander M. York, who lived in Montgomery county, stopped with the Benders over night. When he failed to arrive at his brother's house investigation was made, and the doctor was traced to the Bender house, but no farther. Kate Bender, who is credited with being the one who always dispatched visitors with an ax, told the searchers to come the next evening and she would throw herself into a cataleptic state and tell where York was. When the searching party returned for the revelation it was to find the house deserted. An investigation of the premises disclosed the horrible fact that there was a temporary receptacle for dead bodies beneath the house, and the garden was filled with festering corpses. The body of Dr. York was found, and numerous others which it was impossible to identify. Then came the search, with no discovery, so far as the public knew, of the missing Benders. Captain Carroll's statement as now given out is that a posse of determined men followed and overtook the fugitives—William, his wife and Kate—twenty-five miles from their home, and first shot the old man, while Kate Bender and her mother looked on unmoved. Kate Bender was then told that her time had come, and she stood unflinching until several bullets had pierced her body, and then fell dead. Mrs. Bender got away and nothing was heard of her afterward. The bodies of the two Benders were buried and their graves concealed. John Bender who was arrested in Texas by a member of the same posse, committed suicide. The posse was composed of men sworn to secrecy, and Captain Carroll is the first one to tell of its work. There is a strong probability that this story is true, and that the mystery is cleared at last.

THE LABOR CONVENTION.

So the representatives of organized labor are to meet in convention in Chicago on September 27 to consider what shall be done to change present methods in governmental matters. A prominent feature that comes up for condemnation on the part of those who will compose that convention is the attitude of the courts in the extent and application of injunction orders. But there is more than this. The general ground is that the constitutional guaranty of liberty is broken so far as the laboring classes are concerned; that they are deprived of liberty without due process of equitable laws, and that the courts, behind which is the government force that should make the guaranty good, affirm the deprivation of freedom complained of. The declaration in effect is that, by the course of the majority in this nation, either through activity or neglect, the protection and freedom of the Republic are things of the past, so far as the working classes are concerned.

There is no denying the fact that laboring classes have much to complain of in this regard; that oppression and injustice are rampant in business, political and social circles. The reply may be made that the fault is not all on one side; that there is oppression, and inconsistency, and much selfishness and wrongdoing on the side of the laboring classes as well as of the wealthy and the employers of labor. But the existence of all this does not change the fact that the laborers have serious cause of complaint on the grounds they have alleged; and further that the protest against the evil comes first and with most violence from those who are placed in deepest dis-

tress by reason of injustice and oppression.

This is not the first nor yet the best grounded complaint of disregard of constitutional guaranties in this nation; though perhaps it is or will be the most vehement up to date. The domain of religious freedom has been invaded, and when this was done it was pointed out, not alone by the sufferers, but by leading men in the nation, that the entering wedge would produce disastrous effects. The verification of that prediction is being declared in current events.

What will the Chicago labor convention do? Perhaps not much more than talk when its immediate action is considered. But the seed will be sown, is being sown even now, for a very serious disturbance. The present talk of bloodshed, and arming, and revolution may be more froth than liquid now, but it must bear its fruit through constant cultivation such as it will receive under the conditions that exist. The Chicago labor union convention may not create much of a flurry when it is held, but it will be a landmark in an agitation which is ominous of serious results. It is one of the incidents in the course of this nation toward a time when patriotism will be called upon to stand forth in heroic power to maintain constitutional liberty in this land.

As for the success of any movement of this kind to re-establish perfect freedom and equal rights for all, there is much question. It is too much of a floundering to accomplish the desirable result. There is too much of the selfishness of man in all sides of the business, too much of "the world, the flesh, and the devil," and too little of recognition of and reliance upon God to get out of the trouble. There must be a change in that regard. And when the time comes, through scourging or other process, that this nation will look to Deity and to obedience to His laws for relief, and the people will say in their hearts "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord," their rescue will come—not before. That is the path to relief, to justice, to happiness. All the efforts of men, made in their despising of Deity; all their conventions, convocations, utterances and actions in that line, are doomed to failure. Disregard of Christian principle has wrought the present trouble, and only repentance, and a turning to love for God and for their fellowman—to true Christian principle—will bring permanent contentment, prosperity and happiness to the people of this nation.

A COLLEGE OUTRAGE.

At Berkley, California, is the university founded by Leland Stanford for the education and advancement of the young men of our day. How much some of them have advanced there is well shown by a dispatch in today's "News." A student was thrown down, trodden upon, his face bruised out of the semblance of humanity and his brain possibly injured by a lot of semi-barbarians classified at the university as students. A more inhuman, dastardly transaction could scarcely be conceived or carried out by savages of the wilds, yet such things have become so common in our advanced institutes of learning as to be read of and forgotten in the same day.

The modern college campus in point of inhuman conduct is little if any behind the gladiatorial arena of the days of early Rome. Not so many lives are taken on the spot, but a large number are beclouded for the remainder of their term and the term itself is frequently shortened by the practices of

which the Berkley incident is but one of many like it. It does seem as if college walls and the discipline obtaining within them might be penetrated by the law and offenders brought forth to answer to outraged justice if those whose duty it is would only set the proper machinery in motion. That such an example may be set in the California case as will be a warning to the lawless and a stimulus to the legal authorities elsewhere when such outrages occur is fervently hoped for.

A KANSAN'S TESTIMONY.

Elder William T. Jack, president of the Indian Territory mission, sends us a copy of the St. John (Kansas) Weekly News of August 27, in which occurs a bit of comment that deserves reproduction. Here it is:

"The following article appears in an editorial of the Harper Sentinel under the date of July 23rd, 1897: 'We understand there is some disagreement among the Christian church members on account of the action of the board in allowing the two Mormon preachers to hold meetings in the church. Now we want to say a few words on the subject. While we are not personally acquainted with the two young men in question, we do know something of the Church and people they represent. The Mormon Church is probably the worst misrepresented Church on earth, and has the most bitter prejudice to contend with. Prejudice arises from ignorance, and we feel certain that if those who are most opposed to their using the church will inform themselves a little on the subject they will change their views. There has been lots of tomyrot scattered over the country by irresponsible and disgruntled persons, but the principles of the Church are almost identical with the Christian church, except in two points: paying tithing and belief in Joseph Smith as a Prophet. The Mormons are doing a good work and living as near to the Bible as any other church. We know what we are talking about, for we spent three years among them, worked with them, did business with them and got thoroughly acquainted with them.' In addition to this testimony, the Sentinel of August 13th published a three-column article from the pen of Elders Stone and Iverson."

THE ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE.

Today, August 30, is the date for the conference of labor leaders in St. Louis, at which questions of vital importance will be considered in connection with the great strike in the coal mining region of the middle West. What the outcome of the conference will be, it is difficult to prognosticate. But there is not likely to be any sympathetic strike, so the country will be saved from that danger. On the other hand, unless something is done to ameliorate in the settlement of the strike the conditions of which the miners complain, there is but a little way for the latter to go before resorting to violence and possible civil war to seek redress of their grievances. Whatever may be said of the unwisdom and futility of strikes, the laborers in that part of the country are sorely oppressed in their wages and toil, and if there is no relief given through peaceable operations, a violent outbreak will inaugurate new conditions. At best, the outlook is ominous of serious trouble in the near future. Deferring it a few months, or even years, without means for redressing the wrong, will only make matters worse when the culminating point is reached.