

such cases beyond controversy; yet the federal judge having issued an injunction restraining the street car company from accepting the fare prescribed by the state law, the public is admonished to pay the illegal fare, and thus "maintain the reputation for obeying the laws," until the time arrives that the matter can "adjust itself in accordance with the law."

The situation is rather puzzling, but the Chicago Daily News offers the ironical explanation that the law is constitutional and valid in Indiana but unconstitutional and void in the United States. That paper remarks:

The result will be some trifling confusion and embarrassment to the Indianapolis street car men and their patrons until the distinction is fully settled into practice; then it will work with perfect smoothness. The 3-cent fare is binding and in force in Indiana. Hence a passenger riding in Indiana only cannot be compelled to pay more than 3 cents. But the new law is not in force in the United States, and it follows that as soon as the passenger rides over into the United States he must pay 5 cents as before. Or, if a passenger enters a car which happens to be in the United States and it remains in the United States until his fare is collected, then he must pay 5 cents; but the moment he gets into Indiana he is entitled to the return of 2 cents, making his fare 3 cents, as the Indiana law contemplates.

Easiest thing in the world when you know how.

NEW FRUIT PEST.

The Grand Junction (Colo.) Sentinel has a statement regarding a new fruit pest which has appeared in the Grand valley in southwestern Colorado, and along the fruit section in southeastern Utah. It is stated that this foe to the fruit interest, new at least to this locality, feeds on the leaf buds and young twigs of peach and plum trees especially, attacking them most ravenously. Its first appearance in the locality named was in the summer of 1898, when but few of the insects were seen. This year, however, it is asserted that they exist in great numbers, are multiplying rapidly, and promise to inflict serious injury to the fruit crop unless they are successfully met and promptly repelled. A. V. Snodgrass thus tells of his investigations with the development of this small and active worm:

On the 14th day of May I trapped some of the larvae of this moth, and in some five to eight days I had the pupæ. Then about June 4th the second transformation came in the shape of a small but very active moth. This moth is of a dary gray color, slightly bronzed, about five-sixteenths of an inch long and half an inch wide when wings are extended, carries an arched neck and a very pointed head. It is of nocturnal habit and now ready to put a second brood on the way, and this brood of larvae is sure to attack the fruit of the peach and the plum. I anticipate that this brood of larvae will have commenced to hatch by July 1.

Utah has suffered very severely from fruit pests from some years past, so much so that in some years the fruit crop has been almost a complete failure; and to have another pest appear at this time when the fruit industry

is just getting another start, would be most unfortunate. It is hoped the western Colorado enemy referred to will disappear without becoming at all formidable, but if it is really started as claimed, then the most careful precautions should be taken to guard against its introduction and development further west. It is claimed now that timely spraying with paris green at a strength of one pound to one hundred and sixty gallons of water will destroy the insect. The attention of the State board of horticulture should be kept on this new fruit pest, at least till it is ascertained there is no fear of trouble from it either in the fruit orchards of Grand and San Juan counties, Utah, or elsewhere in the State.

MARRIAGE OF THE DEAD.

It has often been observed that the views, traditions and religious rites of pagan nations give evidence of a common origin, and to the close student it will also appear that this first source was that fountain spring of eternal truth, to which our progenitors had access by divine revelation. The diversity of religious forms, many of which are mostly gross superstitions, is due to the tendency to degeneracy to which every human being is subjected, and which can be overcome only by a constant supply of the new material needed for progress.

If all pagan religions were known and their forms and doctrines understood, it would appear, probably, that they all have preserved some part of the true religion which God had first revealed to man. Everywhere we find traces of the moral law, of the Priesthood, of the idea of an atonement, and of immortality. Even the ordinance of baptism has left its imprint on the religious observance of some pagan nations.

The belief in a life after this is well illustrated in an Asiatic custom to perform marriage ceremonies for the dead, a rite so real to the observers thereof that the living families of the deceased persons thereby are considered united in the bonds of relationship.

Upon this subject a geographical magazine, *Globus*, contains an interesting article. It is there stated that Colonel Yule in his observations upon marriage for the dead believed it to be of Chinese origin, and that it is still practiced in the northern part of China. It appears, however, the article goes on to say, that the custom was originally introduced into China by the Tartars in the 12th century before Christ. It is first mentioned by a Chinese author Kung Yu-chi, in a book written by him in the year 1126, where he speaks of it as a new thing which was utterly unknown in China in his younger days, that is, before the Tartars had entered his country.

Of the ceremony itself the author in the *Globus* says the candidates must have died unmarried. The parents on both sides apply to the so-called "Kwelmor," which means "negotiator of marriage among the spirits" who arranges all the details. The wedding ceremony between the dead son of one family and the dead

daughter of the other is celebrated at the grave of the spirit-bridegroom or spirit-bride. A contract is drawn up, signed by the parents of the bridal couple, and then burned with great solemnity, in the belief that the business transacted between the living will thus become known to the dead and receive their assent as obedient children.

The custom is mentioned by Marco Polo, and was received as one of his traveler's tales, but recent investigations have proven that his statements are correct.

It is curious to reflect that the great truth concerning the eternal duration of the marriage contract should be found in the innermost depths of the pagan world, far away from the centers of Christian illumination, and that at a time when professedly Christian organizations come suspiciously near, not only regarding marriage covenants as earthly transactions merely, but even forbidding them, regarding a single state as a superior degree of perfection. But may we not conclude that this fact is an evidence that the eternal nature of the covenants between man and woman was one of the earliest truths taught by God to the human family, and that it, notwithstanding the lapse of ages, has not been entirely blotted out of the consciousness of man?

NO MORMON FOR CONSUL.

It appears that Mr. G. H. Backman, a well known citizen of Salt Lake City, has applied to the Swedish-Norwegian legation at Washington for an appointment as vice-consul, and that the minister, A. Grip, declines to recommend the appointment on the ground that the applicant is a "Mormon." His excellency, we understand, has expressed himself as entertaining only kind feelings to the people of Utah, but on account of sensational letters sent to the Scandinavian peninsula by sectarian missionaries in Utah, the government department controlling the appointment had concluded that it should be given to a non-Mormon. Mr. Backman, it is well known, has all the necessary qualifications to fill that office; he had the endorsement of prominent business men in the city and of Utah representatives in Congress, but being a Mormon, no merits availed.

His excellency, Minister Grip, has evidently not been long enough in this country to learn that a certain brand of religious faith is not essential for the discharge of everyday duties. The Danish government has acted on more liberal views than be credits to the government he represents, for the authorities at Copenhagen have for years been represented in this city by a gentleman who is a member of the Church.

No matter, though. The consulate here is not a remunerative office. What is in it is hardly worth mentioning, but the principle referred to is to be condemned. Most of the Scandinavians here belong to the Church, and if their faith disqualifies them to transact the little business of a consular agent, while the Lutheran faith is a sine qua non in the matter,