

dence," said Sockdolliger. "I do hope she is in heaven."

Sockdolliger really felt bad. Death to him was a dreadful mystery and hell an awful reality, and he was enough of a man to be tortured by the thought that one soul had been plunged into eternal torments. He would fain believe that somehow Blanche had been converted.

"I think she is in heaven," said Gooch. "The last time I read the Bible to her, she was very quiet. Indeed, I think she wept. She said nothing, but it may be hoped that she accepted the plan of Salvation."

"It must be so," said Sockdolliger. Sockdolliger could damn by the wholesale folks he never knew and did not care much about; but when it came right home, to one of his own ship's passengers for instance, and he could realize something of the enormous horror of the doctrine, why, then he was ready to back down and accept any little sign that the unfortunate sinner had been converted.

Gooch looked awfully solemn, but it required but little perception to see that it was an artificial mourning. Blanche's death really made it easier to carry out his purposes concerning her fortune. All the papers were in his possession; and, as her sole remaining legal representative, he could lay claim to everything. It did on this account seem to him a dispensation of providence: his selfishness was so allied to his religion that he actually

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Is the Power of Churches Waning?

The Rev. Thomas Dixon, jr., in the Academy of Music Sunday morning spoke on "The New Theology," saying:

"The organic church life has lost its hold on the public mind. Women are the only ones who hold to church organizations of to-day. There are not 35,000 men in the city of New York to-day who go into Protestant churches. This is true also of Roman Catholics. According to the latest statistics it is estimated that 385,000 persons attend Catholic churches, but of that number there are many who go to church once or twice a year and some who never go unless they think they are about to die.

"The decline of the ministry is another great factor in the decay of the ecclesiastical machinery. If there is a runt in the family who is no earthly use for anything else the parents make a preacher of him. There are 1,000 preachers in this city out of a job.

"If men of brains get into the ministry and begin to think, and give expression to their thought, they have to get out mighty quick or stand trail on a charge of heresy. Dr. Briggs, the brainiest man the Presbyterian church ever had, was put out when he began to think."—New York Herald.

For the Torch of Reason. It is Rest.

Here lieth in the tomb
One who was sorrow's guest,
I'm glad although in gloom
And silence, it is rest,
In country bleak and wild
No joy was in request,
In city troubles piled—
But herein there is rest.

No matter if the mound
Be bare or flora drest,
Content dwells under ground,
The grave bed giveth rest!
From lawsuits there is peace,
Physicians don't infest,
Of preaching there's surcease—
O, welcome! It is rest.

—John Prescott Guild

Better Than the Rib Story.

"Among the many interesting traditions that have recently been brought to light by a man who has been making a careful study of the legends and folk-lore of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians of the Indian territory is one that accounts in a singular way for the origin of woman. The Indians of these tribes sniff disdainfully at the rib theory when the resident missionaries try to teach them the initial lessons of the Old Testament regarding their first parents. The wise men of their tribes wrestled with the fundamental facts of the creation long ago, and evolved theories concerning it which with the lapse of time have come to be looked upon by the Indians of to-day as historical truths.

It is little wonder that the Cheyenne and Arapahoe braves look down upon their women as inferior beings, in view of their supposed origin. The legend says that originally all men were created with long, sleek and comely tails. These tails were their delight, and they adorned them with paint, beads and wampum. Then the world was at peace, wars and discord were unknown. Men became prosperous and proud, forgot their Maker and became envious and quarrelsome. Their Maker became displeased with them and sent a scourge upon them to teach them humility and make them realize their dependence upon the Great Spirit. He amputated their tails, and out of these beautiful members fashioned women."

Steiner's Lecture Dates.

Mr. Franklin Steiner is on his way to the coast. His dates are as follows:

Spokane, Washington	July 31, August 1.
Reardon, "	Aug. 2, 3, 4
Davenport, "	" 6, 7, 8
Wilbur, "	" 9, 10
Sherman, "	" 11, 12, 13
Waterville, "	" 15, 16

Mr. Steiner will arrive in Oregon about Sept. 1. The Liberals of Silverton, McMinnville, Wamic, Rufus, Wasco, Dayville, Highland, Canby, Cottage Grove, and North Powder are making arrangements for lectures. It is to be hoped that other places will do so. Write to Mr. Steiner at Silverton, care "TORCH OF REASON."

The Army of Tramps.

The army of tramps is larger this season than usual. The long industrial depression which has prevailed since 1893 has added to the professional vagrants a large body of involuntarily idle. According to reports the tramp army in many states is of unusual size and is troublesome to the inhabitants. "Conservative estimates, based on official figures show that this year New York State has 110,000 tramps." In Indiana the tramp army is so numerous that the bureau of statistics has started out to enumerate it. The estimate for Pennsylvania is 60,000. A railroad manager at Topeka says, that in places the citizens have petitioned the railroad to carry them away; they invest the freight trains to such an extent that on the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific, guards with double barreled shotguns patrol the tops of the cars to keep them off. In Wisconsin the local authorities are endeavoring to keep the bands broken up and moving, to prevent the concentration of idle and desperate men. The interior of Missouri is invested with tramps to a degree unknown heretofore, and in many cases they de-

mand this year what formerly they were wont to beg.

The number of unemployed in all the cities is large. In Detroit the other day the applicants for work on a street that was to be repaved outnumbered the demand 40 to 1. About 10 per cent. of the adult male population of Milwaukee is idle and walking the streets for work. Let us hope that the industrial revival is near at hand, and that the ranks of the unemployed will soon be reduced to the number of those who are idle from choice. But the evil of the professional tramp, which has existed since the war of the Rebellion, will still exist to be dealt with when prosperity returns.

In justice to those whose bread they eat and to the population at large, these voluntary tramps should be compelled to earn their own living, at least to work or starve. Those who are unemployed because they cannot find work deserve all possible sympathy and aid.

CORRESPONDENT.

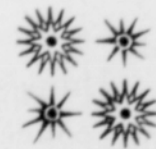
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