

CURRENT EVENTS.

Skagway is reported to be ruled by a desperate mob.

Frances E. Willard, president of the W. C. T. U., died at midnight February 17.

The Pennsylvania coal miners are preparing to strike, on April 1, for an eight hour day and ten per cent advance in wages.

News from San Salvador is to the effect that the greater republic of Central America has ceased to exist, the republic of Salvador, the backbone of the union, having been withdrawn.

A bill for the appointment of a board of arbitration to settle disputes between railroads and their employees, has been unanimously reported to the house by the committee on labor.

Permission has been granted by the British government for the escort of United States soldiers which will accompany the Klondike expedition to pass through Canadian territory.

Mr. Herbert Spencer has practically completed his life-work, and it is a colossal achievement. It is well to remember this in face of the news that he has removed to Brighton, and will probably never return to London, as he is in exceedingly feeble health, suffering from an affection of the heart. Considering his delicate constitution, and the work he has performed, it is surprising that Mr. Spencer should have attained to the age of seventy-seven.

On February 15, at 10 o'clock at night, the United States battleship Maine was blown up and sunk in the harbor at Havana. Since that time the newspapers have contained little besides sensational and contradictory reports. The cause of the disaster is unknown. More than 250 persons lost their lives in the wreck, the bodies of many of whom have not been recovered. While vigorously discouraging undue excitement over the disaster, the United States government is quietly putting its naval forces in condition for action. The report that evidence of Spanish treachery had been found in a plot to destroy the great battleship, is not wholly confirmed, but contradiction of it is not sufficiently strong to repress angry suspicion. The board of official inquiry will begin its investigation immediately, and the sequel of the tragic incident will probably be learned only through its final report.

Secularists, would you not like to have some letter heads printed with Secular sentiment and Wettstein's Freethought badge, to use in cor-

respondence with your friends? We will furnish them to you with your name and address printed on them for 75 cents per hundred, \$1.50 for 250, or \$2.50 for 500 post paid. Let the people know where you stand.

REFLECTED RAYS.

It is said that the Gallas tribe in Africa kill cows on every possible occasion. Not because they hate cows or are fond of cow-flesh, but because a cow once swallowed a certain sacred volume which the natives want to recover. This is ridiculous enough, of course; but is it really more ridiculous than a paste wafer becoming the very body of God Almighty, which is then carnivorously swallowed by his Christian devotees?—[Freethinker.

"Keep the Bible in the schools!" shouts the sky-pilot, and the cry is echoed by the Philistine. But what other book would they have in the schools which gave injunctions for barbarity and indecency, slaughter and slavery and polygamy, and is filled with representations of events as controlled by intervention? The Bible deals in miracles from first to last, and that fact alone should be sufficient warrant for its exclusion from schools where the principles of science should be taught.

Truth, which has often called attention to the cruelty to animals in Italy, cites a correspondent who points out that the blame for the prevailing state of things rests upon the priests, who are not only utterly callous in regard to the sufferings of animals, but expressly teach that "animals are not Christians," and have no claim to Christian sympathy or charity. It is owing to this religious teaching that all attempts to check cruelty to animals in Southern Italy have been so futile, and the correspondent contends that the law, however stringent it might be, must be absolutely powerless to protect animals until the attitude of the priests is changed.—[Freethinker.

If there is ever a time when the believer in a watchful providence can feel certain of immunity from sudden death, it should be when he is performing some act of devotion. Nevertheless clergymen are almost daily stricken dead in their pulpits, while church attendants expire in their pews under circumstances which point no moral. And then in Huntington, West Virginia, only a few days ago, when the Rev. Mr. Enoch led Mrs. Henry Kirk into the water for baptismal purposes, she slipped from his grasp and sank to rise no more in this world. Is providence like the Christian described in Paine's poem, who made sure of his convert's salvation by drowning him before he had time to recant?—[Truthseeker.

*** WESTERN ***

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