Very Poor Condition

THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN

Official Paper of the United States

SATURDAY, : DECEMBER 25, 1875

Luttrell of California is doing a large amount of talking in Congress. He has not explained how he swindled, or ability to do it, a tribe of thirteen Indian paws in his State out of $20,000. If he did not do it why don't he ask for an investigation? We do not know that the record hunter did it, but it is so charged and he should not talk so much about investigating others until his skirts are clear.

STEAMERS HAULED OFF.

A San Francisco dispatch, of December 22d, says Goodall, Nelson & Perkins have telegraphed their agent at Victoria, B. C., that owing to the severe criticism of the Victoria press, they have deemed it advisable to withdraw their steamers for the present from that route.

DAN SMITH, MAIL ROBBER, FOUND GUILTY.

After hearing the charge, the jury retired to deliberate upon the case, and in about half an hour returned into Court with their verdict finding the defendant "guilty as charged in the indictment."

On Wednesday Judge Deady sentenced Andrew Harmison alias Dan Smith to eight years imprisonment.

APPROPRIATE HEADING.

Our very able cotemporary, the STATESMAN, on yesterday morning headed its editorial columns with an article entitled "The Music of Silence." Considering the fact that it contained miscellaneous matter entirely, without any editorial whatever, the heading quoted above was very appropriate.—Mercury.

The reason why our columns appeared without an editorial, was that Gov. Wat kinds requested us to give him a rest as he was at present engaged in business connected with the Supreme Court, and had no time to answer for the Mercury.

AT Lebanon, last Saturday, while some workmen were engaged in digging a ditch under a sidewalk, Mr. Jeremiah Ralston, one of the men at work, met with a severe accident. It appears that the walk was tilted up and supported by several upright pieces of wood. One of the supports gave way, and the walk, in falling, hit a scantling, causing it to fly up in such a manner as to hit Mr. Ralston on the temple, knocking him senseless, in which condition he remained upwards of an hour.

AFTER THE STEAMSHIPS.

A Sacramento dispatch, of Dec. 22d, says in the Assembly, yesterday, Pullen, who has been a seaman, was on five out of a certain ten vessels he named which had been wrecked on this coast, introduced resolutions to have the Speaker appoint a Committee of Five to go to San Francisco and ascertain whether the steamships which voyage from that port in the passage trade are seaworthy or not. He referred, in his remarks, to the many steamships lost on this coast, involving the sacrifice of about 1,500 li[illegible] said that no investigation had [illegible] had into any of them. It was no[illegible]tial that the lives of passengers [illegible] protected so far as the autho[illegible] commar[illegible] to th[illegible]

"WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING."

ED. STATESMAN:—In your issue of the 23d I observe an article headed "Whither are we Drifting" by "Paul," containing several misstatements to which I propose to call the attention of your readers. In the first place he is inconsistent, for he locates the President as the head of this great Christian nation (so-called), for that part of his recent message which relates to our common schools. Now, either this is or it is not a Christian nation. If it is not, then why should he censure the President for recommending an amendment to the Constitution to the effect that every child in the land should be educated from the proceeds of a tax laid indiscriminately upon all property and that there should be no religious text books used in the schools provided by such tax. But the whole tenor of his article shows his assumption that we are a Christian nation. The falsehood or truth of this depends upon the meaning of the term Christianity. What are the cardinal doctrines of Christ as relates to man's moral or social relations? Plainly non-resistance or the overcoming of evil with good. In other words, moral suasion. Now, if I may, with the old lady, be permitted to "differ with Paul," I should say that we are *not* a Christian nation, and that it is a misnomer to apply that term to us or any other nation on earth. Christianity, as a code of morals, has never had anything to do with the laws of civilized nations. To be sure the "Mother Church" did once govern men "temporally and spiritually," not by the non-resistant principle of Jesus, but by force and the sword. Mahomet got, and some of her daughters, in the early days of this country, followed her example; but, thanks to that sense of justice which was born from civilization, or giving and taking, the sachristian power of the daughter churches, like that of the Papal Mother, is numbered with the things that were. Paul seems to regret the old times when Church and State were united; when men's enlightenment was so little that they could not see that Christ's command to "forbid not those who follow not with us," meant that they should not burn at the stake those who differed from them in "modes of faith." Oh, how sorry "Paul" is for the growing disrespect among the people for religious rites and Bible doctrines. Does he see the reason? Why, the people are becoming more and more enlightened. They are seeing that the "Mother Church" and her offspring are, and ever have been, false to their professions of belief in the doctrines of Jesus. The fact is the professed Christian has no more right to force the New Testament into the common schools as a text book than the Mahomedan would have to compel the Christian's children to read the Koran in a school supported by a tax on the property of all alike. The only hope of our Government is in the enlightenment of its citizens, and that enlightenment depends on the education of its children.

APOLLUS.

SOMETHING MORE FROM KI[illegible]ER.

[illegible] the world will be delivered from it! Only drive away prejudice, that black thunder-cloud which ever hovers over truth; think for yourselves, free, as American citizens ever should think; consult your precious health and lives. Every free man, should, at least, to a certain degree be his own lawyer, his own preacher, his own physician. One method of cure in fever is entirely without mercury and its doletul effects. Were we even not more successful than the gentlemen of the medical profession who trust to the virtues of crlomel, still the gain would be immense; but from facts enumerated fairly, by the botanic system, we have nothing to fear from an impartial comparison. The principal mineral now used internally to heal all the ills to which our flesh is heir, is mercury. It is called the Sampson of the materia medica and so it appears to be, for it Sampson slayed his thousands, this mineral poison has slayed its tens of thousands. It is a matter of profound astonishment to me that any article, productive of such deleterious effects, should be so highly extolled by that profession and be so universally used.

N. KEYSER.

EXPLANATION.

McMINNVILLE, Oregon, Dec. 20, 1875.

EDITOR STATESMAN—Dear Sir:—In the WEEKLY STATESMAN, of December 18th, I find a letter published, written by myself to Mr. David Newsome. The letter was not intended for publication, but was a private note, penned hastily and without proper consideration to my old friend Newsome, and I regret exceedingly the publicity given to the careless words in regard to the Hon. Mr. Lane. It was not my intention to attack him in any such manner, especially during his absence.

The words occurring in the note "not only a Catholic, but who was drunk every day in the canvass," should be not [illegible] Catholic, but was drinking, etc. I wi[illegible] make this correction in regard to the wo[illegible] drunk. In reference to the expression [illegible] Catholic, it was not my intention to use it offensively. With the religion of any person I have nothing to do. All have their rights and should be protected in them, and no one would go further than myself in aiding and demanding protection to any and all the several denominations of Christians in our country.

Mr. Lane and I passed through the canvass without personal abuse and parted with mutual good feeling, and now that he is the Representative of Oregon I certainly shall wish him unlimited success, hoping he will make a useful member of Congress and do much for the interest of our State.

Very respectfully, yours, etc.,

HENRY WARREN.

WONDERFUL IMPROVEMENT.

"You see, grandmamma, we perforate an aperture in the apex, and a corresponding aperture in the base, and by applying the egg to the lips and forcibly inhaling the breath, the egg is entirely discharged of its contents." "Bless my soul," cried the old lady, "what wonderful improvements they do make! Now, in my younger days we just made a hole in both ends and sucked."

HOW WAS HE?

A little baby stranger came to a family in Augusta, last week, and a bright five-year-old brother, who had been heir to one the only child in the household, was brought in to see the new comer. He greeted the little one with apparent pleasure and delight, patting it playfully under the chin and smoothing down its soft hair. Then all at once came the inquiry: "say, now was God when you left?"

THE Washington correspondent of the Walla Walla Statesman intimates that Hon. E. S. Kearney will shortly be appointed to succeed Gov. Ferry, of Washington Territory.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

ED. STATESMAN:—Does your correspondent, "Paul," intend to advocate the establishment of a State Church in America? Probably he would answer this question in the negative, while possibly, admitting that he would like to see a Bureau of Education established on a similar principle to our present Indian Department, and the public schools of our country divided up and placed under the charge of the various religious sects existing in this land. This, indeed, appears to be the nearest approach to justice, provided we do not consent to the sectarianism of our public schools. Now this might be done in two ways: First, by giving certain school districts to certain denominations; second, by dividing the school fund in a district among the several religious bodies in it. Were the first plan adopted, it would result in the isolation of religious sects. One district would become Catholic, another Presbyterian, a third Methodist, etc., and then what a glorious time there would be for those who enjoy a "free fright." Were the second proposition adopted, it would result, ultimately, in a like separation, or by the division of the school fund into small fractions, the present standard of school houses and teachers would be much lowered—"save the mark." To either plan, there is, of course, the further—however insignificant objection, that those who did not belong to any religious body whatever, would necessarily be left out in the cold. To this "Paul" would doubtless reply, "Not at [illegible] children of the [illegible] and [illegible] to us [illegible] them.

I read in the papers that the Governor has pardoned the little boy who was in the Penitentiary. I am very glad, and all the mothers of little boys will feel thankful to the Governor and glad that Willie is to have a good home. We hope he will grow up a true and honest man and a good citizen.

But there are two or three other boys in the Penitentiary yet and perhaps they will not be pardoned as Willie was; perhaps they will have to stay there till their time is up and then nobody will want to employ them and good people will be afraid to associate with them and just as likely as not they will go on doing wrong until they will have to be sent back to prison again. Now, is there anything we can do to help bad boys, so that they will stop being naughty and grow up good men? If the boys grow up wicked, just think of what a country we shall have, with so many men who drink, swear and destroy each other's property, and fight and hurt each other. It is sad to think of it. What can we do to prevent it? Little boys, what do you think we can do?

I was talking with a friend about it and she told me of some boys who threw stones over into her yard and killed some little chickens. She said it was of no use to try to do anything for them, of no use to speak kindly to them; they would only laugh and do more than ever. It made so sorry, but still I hope she is mistaken and that some of them at least will listen to kind words. At any rate I mean to try by writing letters to them, to show them how much better it is to be gentlemen. Will you please read my letters and show them to your young friends; and if these letters are the means of keeping any of the boys from being wicked and having to be shut up in prison I shall be glad.

Your Friend, LENORA.

SALEM, Dec. 20, 1875.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

In the year 1864, Samuel I. Newsome, of Marion county, Oregon, started to Kentucky, from San Francisco, with about two thousand dollars in cash—his all of wealth—to purchase fine stock and return again to Oregon. He passed on a steamer to the Isthmus; and thence on another ship east of it, to New York, via Cuba. The California steamers then running between [illegible] were generally rich prizes to Captains [illegible] and his numerous crew, who were commissioned and upheld by the Jeff Davis Southern Confederacy. There [illegible] no wealth aboard the California steamer—a merchant vessel, and unarmed. She passed on well; but early in the morning of the day on which they would arrive at Fortress Monroe, Semmes' piratical ship hove in sight, but some distance off.

The Captain of the California steamer, with the aid of a spy-glass perceived that the pirate ship was in full chase of his ship. Every sail was set, and steam raised to its utmost strength on board of his craft. A large number of passengers were on board; and then came a race for life or death. Gradually the distance lessened between those ships. In time fear was depicted in every countenance of the passengers. But the officers and crew of our noble, loyal ship, had confidence in her power of endurance under heavy steam. The day was clear and a gentle breeze filled the sails of both ships, which were steering directly towards Fortress Monroe. To the loyal one there was hope if it could reach that point before the pirate should come in reach with her murderous guns. To the pirate, the only hope was to come near enough to our ship to give her a broadside, or else capture all aboard. More and more steam was made on board the California steamer, while she seemed to quake under the great power propelling her forward. The lady passengers uttered piteous pleadings to the officers of their ship to escape the pirate or all go to the bottom of the sea together. At length our noble ship came in ten miles of the Fortress and the Captain, through his spy glass, could see the commotion in the Fortress. All the men were at the guns, which were in place ready to belch forth the monster balls of which all the rebels South had been in dread, during the civil war, then not yet ended, March 19, 1864. The pirate came on with renewed speed, but joy, joy was perceived in each countenance on board, when they perceived that Semmes had changed his course and passed away as fast as he could. The fuses were ready and in another half mile run the pirate would have been in range of the balls from the Fortress.

Shouts went up from those on board our ship. Never, said my informant, did we so fully realize the blessings and protection of the stars and stripes as on that occasion. Our ship soon reached the Fortress, where they all remained for three days under the most kind and humane treatment from the noble loyal citizens in that stronghold. Many of the passengers went around the water battery (so called) and looked at the forty arch-ways, each with its grim, black, gun, ready to pour out its avalanche of death. They passed in over the draw-bridge where the sentinel paces. They climbed to the ramparts and then to the parapet, by the aid of one of the gun carriages. Around and far away were the sparkling waters.

Hampton Roads were below and around them a beautiful harbor. Off to the right was seen the mouth of the James river and to the left Chesapeake Bay. Far beyond in the misty haze was discerned the waters of the broad Atlantic. After the days of rest there were ended the gallant ship passed on to New York in safety. As Samuel I. Newsome passed through Virginia and Maryland he saw the sites where some of the bloody battles were fought and the marks of fire and carnage.

DAVID NEWSOME.

Dec. 22, 1875.

A FAILURE.

A boy of ten went into a Grand River avenue grocery yesterday and called for a five cent bar of soap. He left a nickel on the counter and started out, but the grocer called:

"See here, boy—this is a lead nickel! I don't take such money as this."

The boy left the soap and took up the nickel without a word, but on reaching the walk he burst out:

"I told ma he wasn't near-sighted, but she stuck to it and stuck to it, and now I am liable to be jailed!"

EX-SENATOR NYE.

Ex-Senator Nye, confined for some time in Sanford Hall, a private hospital for the insane, in Flushing, Long Island, has partially recovered and has been taken from the institution by relatives. He is at present with a daughter in New York City.

A French writer describes a young lady as one who kisses her gentleman friends till she is six years old, and then leaves off until she is sixteen.

ANOTHER LETTER TO THE LITTLE BOYS.

DEAR BOYS:—Yesterday I attended Sabbath School at one of the churches in Salem, and was much pleased to see so many bright, happy looking little boys there, and I thought, "Surely none of these will ever become wicked, commit some crime and have to be sent to prison." The Sabbath School is a good place, and if the dear little children will obey the teachings of the sweet hymns they learn there, and listen to the counsel of their kind teachers, they will never be wicked. But above all may they learn to love and obey the blessed Savior, who said: "Feed my lambs." The Savior calls himself the "Shepherd" and his followers the sheep of his fold. The shepherd takes care of his sheep, so Jesus watches over his friends, and loves and cares for them. Especially does He care for the Lambs of His flock, and he bids His friends, all who love Him—to care for His Lambs. And when those who love the Savior come every Sabbath to instruct the children and youths in the precious truths of the Bible, they are walking in his footsteps, and will receive His blessing. But there are some little boys who do not attend Sabbath School, or else they do not mind what they are taught.

A few days ago I was told that some boys destroyed or injured some property belonging to an Indian. Now if they were Sabbath School scholars and had stopped to think they would have remembered the words of Jesus: "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you;" and I am sure that if an Indian should come along and destroy their property they would not like it, and very likely the Indian would be arrested. The path of evil is a down-hill road and slippery, and when one gets started on this path it is hard to stop.

May all the boys who read this avoid the beginning of evil, and do to others as they would others to do to them.

Willie's father—will [illegible] St. Peter to open [illegible] they ever [illegible] words they are [illegible] and infidels. They [illegible] their opinions, because their opinions are false. On what principle, then, may I ask, would Mr. "Paul" claim exemption for his children, being brought up in the teaching of "the only true church?" Surely, not on the ground that as a parent he has a right to judge what is best for his own children. For let him once admit this position, and he must be content to admit the justice of the establishment of public schools in which the teachings of Mormon, Tom Paine, Confucius and others should be instilled into the minds of the young whose parents happen to be disciples of these worthies. And, I trow, this would hardly be a pleasant thing for our friend "P." to admit. No! Professor "Paul" wants his own religion taught in the schools. The Bible should be admitted in spite of the opposition and opinion of the Romanists. That is, Mr. "Paul" is right, and his Roman friends, wrong.

Now, Mr. Editor, I can't see the question in this light. I am a staunch Protestant, holding my own opinion firmly and honestly, and because I hold these opinions honestly, I am willing to admit and believe in the honesty of my neighbors' opinions what they may. Let public schools be free to all, such as [illegible] use, or let us abolish the [illegible]. For my part I am de[illegible] my children shall receive a [illegible] education, as well as a thorough religious one. The former they [illegible] in the public schools; the latter [illegible] in the Sunday School, the [illegible] their home. So much for [illegible]. Now as to the [illegible] property.

[illegible] at the proposition to [illegible] calling it a tax on "the Lord's." Unless [illegible] will in which the poor are claimed as the property of the Lord. Supposing the exemption of church property from taxation could be shown to be a tax upon the poor, what then? Let us examine the case.

From a long experience in some of the largest cities of the world, I know that the great bulk of the very poorest classes do not attend public worship; and when these people do hear the Gospel, it is preached to them in the open air, in the wretched courts and alleys in which they live. The great wealth of the churches is found in the magnificent temples where the rich sit on their velvet cushions to listen to fine music and an eloquent discourse, or prostrate themselves on soft ottomans, beneath stained arches, where the rays of the sun shone on them with subdued light through stained windows, and thank God that they are not as other men. This luxury is that which is exempted from taxation, and this exemption in another instance, among many others, of the oppression of those who our Lord has been pleased to call His own. For by the exemption of this wealth, poverty is compelled to pay a higher rate of taxation. I say, therefore, let the wealthy pay to the Lord for their temples, and if rich Christians decree that it must be so, let the poor pay for the few miserable houses in which they worship; or stand out under the canopy of Heaven—as most of them do to-day—that they may hear the gospel preached to them. But do not make the poor in Christ pay for the luxurious piety of the rich. For me, I am willing to pay the additional tax on my CHURCH CUSHIONS.

FEVER.

Quite likely it dwells in the memory of most of your readers that when I first settled in Salem I wrote an article on fever, which was published in all the city papers. In that article I announced that I discovered many years ago, a pathological fact, of the utmost importance in the treatment of fever of every name and nature. That excessive heat converts the blood into poison of the same nature that which excites the vital [illegible] I showed, I think, conclusively to the candidiced mind that [illegible] the case requires, [illegible] made, universal and [illegible] for fever and inflammation.

[illegible] of the Physio-Medical College, which all medical reformers are proud of, I am committed to the use of such curative agents as are recommended by that school, and should feel lost without some of them in general practice, but my object in writing for the papers has been, and is, to awaken thought on a subject that comes home sooner or later, to every family and to every individual. I mean the treatment of fever. I expect that many will misrepresent, and that some will misunderstand what I do and say about water as a remedial agent. A practitioner of medicine said to me, the other day, after I had stood by and heard him direct the nurse of a typhoid fever patient to use the cold, wet sheet, so folded as to reach from the hips to the arm pits, re-wetting it as often as the skin became warm to the hand, that he could use water as thoroughly and effectively as I could; and no questions asked as to the why and wherefore, because they had the idea that it was ordered only as an aid to medicine he gave. Now this is all I ever expected of it in general outside practice, but I hope to show in a series of articles for this paper, that regulating the vital heat is of the first importance in restoring the sick to health, and that water should be the agent.

G. W. KIRBEE, M. D.

THE seeds of the mammoth trees in California are not more than half an inch long, a sixth of an inch wide, and as thin as writing paper, and fifty thousand of them only weigh a pound; and yet from these little seeds those immense trees have grown, not less than 3,000 years old, and some from 300 to 450 feet in height—more than double the height of Bunker Hill Monument or Trinity Church. One tree now standing contains 540,000 feet of sound inch lumber, and another would make 1,000 cords of four-foot wood and 100 cords of bark.

A CONTRAST.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—It is painful for me to [illegible] following lines. I am not an enemy to religion, but to vile pretenders, who [illegible] the livery of Heaven serve the Devil and have no charity. It is said that the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.

And we might add, that judging from some men's conduct, the children of this world are better than some of the pretended children of light. A case in point: Uncle Ben Fletcher, of Howell Prairie, Marion county, Oregon, is termed an infidel. That is, he thinks and acts in all things according to his own judgment. Seven years ago he purchased of Isaac Headrick some 280 acres of land, a good farm and timber. The south part of Mr. Headrick's section he deeded to his son, William Headrick, the north part to his daughter Martha, now Mrs. Baughman, and the central part to Uncle Ben Fletcher. The survey in that division was incorrect, and Fletcher's deed covers a part of the farm and the barn on Mrs. Baughman's land. Well, what of that? Fletcher bought and paid for his land, and has a general warranty deed for it. That tract of Mrs. Baughman's was a gift from her parents, and was the residue of the section. Uncle Ben had them. Well, what did he do? He refused to hold one foot of the land beyond where he was showed as his, and has deeded to Mrs. Baughman all the land which was intended for her!

And he stands out to-day as rather a singular personage. Now, whether Uncle Ben's faith is orthodox or otherwise, we must say that his works are O. K. Let us now turn to another case; but first let us keep over fallen human nature, and say, "Woe unto you, Hypocrites." I allude to the Wilson heirs, in reference to the Salem land titles in part. It is not pretended but that the Wilson's received, used and enjoyed the price and worth in full for all the lots and blocks which they sold at an early day in Salem. But owing to certain quibbles, judicial decisions and unjust construction of the acts of Congress, in reference to the donation law in Oregon, Mrs. Wilson and her hopeful heirs first; and since her decease the two black coated reverends are striving, in defiance of justice, religion and private and public rights to usurp ownership and benefits of real estate in Salem, which the owners in good faith bought and improved and now possess. I knew Dr. Wilson well and he was my best friend. He told me of his general bequests to Salem, showed me them and of sales he had made. And had he lived there would be none of this infamous fraud practiced upon innocent persons holding lots from Wilson's deeds. The case of the Court House block, on which is our splendid Court House, costing our tax payers about one hundred and forty thousand dollars, concerns each and every person in this county. A cat's paw is made use of by the two black-coated Wilson heirs, to sue for and recover the Court House back from Marion county! The State House, the Salem Flouring Mill county and perhaps a score of others in Salem, have been blackmailed, or a tribute levied on them, and a compromise obtained and money had from them by these holy personages! And the end is not yet. And these two reverends are ministers of Christ, holding licenses to preach Christ, "who went about doing good."

"Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." Salvation by faith only is a very comfortable doctrine to those whose lives cannot square with justice and truth. Uncle Ben's works and those of Revs. M— and G— are before us. Which are preferable?

Dec. 21, 1875.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

ED. STATESMAN.—When we hear the head of this great Christian nation (so called) talk as President Grant does in his last message to Congress, Is it not time that we should pause and consider whither we as a nation are tending? The President recommends an amendment to the Constitution providing for establishing and maintaining public schools in every State for the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches, but forbidding the teaching in said schools any religious text, whether Pagan or Christian, and prohibiting the granting of any school funds or school taxes by the Legislature, municipal or other power, for such religious instruction. He also recommends that all church property be taxed and also expresses the opinion that properly even church houses should not be exempt from taxation. He says the exemption of such property from taxation is an evil in the land.

I am wondering now if it is true that the American people have so far departed from the precepts of the Bible and the religion of their fathers that they are prepared to say: "It hath been said of old, The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; Train up a child in the way he should go and when he gets old he will not depart from it; The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, etc.," but we say "verily old things are done away," and having a "knowledge of the law written on our hearts, we will be a law unto ourselves." We will not tax our property to provide schools where our little ones may be trained up in the fear and admiration of the Lord, but we will tax our goods and our lands and the house of God and the sacred things therein, the lavers of brass and the lavers of silver and the gold candlesticks and everything that is the Lord's to provide teachers to instruct our children in the ways of the world and the wisdom of men. "Tis thus we should first lay down in the rudiments of the great warfare of life."

Now, Mr. Editor, while we are boasting of the progress of the Christian nations, might it not be well, in view of the lessons of history, and the unfriendly legislation recommended by the President, for Christians and lovers of Christianity to pause and consider in what that progress may end, which departs further and yet further from Bible influence and Christian instruction.

Firstly, we find the church both the spiritual and temporal head of the Christian nations—called Christendom. Next we see Christendom divided: England and France and other christian nations establish temporal and spiritual heads of their own. Then England merges the spiritual in the temporal, and finally the church prerogatives are taken away, until there is nothing left of its former grandeur but the so-called Church of England, which has but a small voice in the government of the realm.

France, from a denial of the authority of the Mother Church, *pdogressed* more rapidly, and finally repudiated not only The Church, but all religion—resolved there was *no God*, spit in the face of the image of the Mother of God, and *confiscated* the church property.

The people of the United States in establishing this republic, carefully guarded against any temporal authority being exercised by the church in the government, but recognized its exittence and encouraged its growth, by protecting its religious and property rights, and exempting its property from taxation, and generally allowing the Bible and other religious books to be taught in the public schools. But to trace the gradual decline of church influence among our people, would extend this article to too great a length.

Suffice it to say, that every observing christian must have noticed the growing disrespect among the people for religious rights and Bible doctrines. It may be seen in the legislative halls, in the newspapers and in the every day conversation of the people; and last, but not least, comes the proposition from the President to enact laws classing christianity with paganism, and to exclude the Bible and Heathen Mythology alike from the public schools and to tax the church property to support such secular establishment. Yea, verily, when it shall come to pass that the church is only valued as a prostrate carcass for the state to feed upon, the prophesy, "The last shall be first and the first shall be last," will be fulfilled. PAUL.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Very Latest News Reports.

Dissatisfied with Committees.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—There is almost universal dissatisfaction with the Speaker's committee selections, and this discontent is heard in a marked degree by the California delegation. Piper's appointment on the committee on commerce and Luttrell's on the committee on Pacific Railroads, are acceptable, but Wigginton's on Territories, and Page on Indian affairs, are not considered suitable. Luttrell, by length of service, was entitled to a chairmanship of some committee, and wanted also to be on the committee on Indian or naval affairs. The Pacific Railway committee is strongly in favor of the Texas Pacific project. Chairman Lamar and Messrs. Throckmorton, Hancock and O'Neill voted against Hoskins's anti-subsidy resolution. Walker, of Virginia, who refrained from voting on this resolution, is known to be in favor of Scott's bill, in the same thing is considered certain of Atkins and Pratt, who also dodged the vote. Phillips, of Kansas, who also dodged the vote, is likewise considered certain to vote for the Texas Pacific bill.

Lane, of Oregon, is the only one from the Pacific Coast besides Luttrell, who has more than one committee position, being assigned to public lands and Indian affairs. Woodburn, of Nevada, goes on mining committee. Majority of new members are given one place.

Acquitted.

DETROIT, Dec. 20.—H. D. Winsor, who was arrested at Buffalo, in June, for the forgery of the names of Barnard Strohl and E. W. Hudson to a large amount of paper, the proceeds of which he used in Utah in mining operations, was acquitted by the jury without leaving their seats, on the ground that Winsor had authority to sign the names.

Trotting Stallion Dead.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 20.—The trotting stallion, Rhode Island, formerly of Amasa Stragin's farm, which was purchased by Governor Sessions for six thousand dollars, and taken to Sacramento, died yesterday.

Constitutional Convention.

DENVER, Dec. 20.—The convention to frame a constitution for Colorado, assembled and temporarily organized to-day. The permanent organization will be effected to-morrow. The Republicans have a large majority, but give a share of offices to the minority.

The Committee on P. R. R.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Of the House Committee on Pacific Railroads, the Chairman, Lamar, voted last year to suspend the rules to put Tom Scott's bill on its passage. O'Neill is from Scott's Philadelphia representative. Throckmorton left the Texas Pacific Company's service to come to Congress. Walker is author of an elaborate paper advocating Scott's project. Atkins' Tennessee constituency, expect a connecting branch road.

Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means.

Dispatches say the placing of Representative Morrison, of Illinois, at the head of the Ways and Means Committee, occasions very general surprise, both to Republicans and Democrats, and is received by the majority of Democratic members with strong manifestations of disapprobation. Before the House assembled to day groups of three or four Democratic members were about the hall discussing Speaker Kerr's selection of new Democratic leaders and the opinion was almost universal he would prove a failure and be an easy prey to the Republican side of the House. Representative Cox, in a conversation, alluded to the Speaker's choice in a sarcastic manner and said that so far as he could ascertain there was very general disgust among the Democratic members. As for himself he did not care now where he was placed on committees and he was determined for the future to cut loose and act for himself. He stood by Kerr when he needed strength and was put aside for new men. It was no secret that the Texas Pacific Railroad had had something to do with the formation of committees. In brief, Cox said he was thoroughly disgusted.

Bill to Reimburse Oregon.

Senator Mitchell introduced a bill to reimburse the State of Oregon for moneys paid by that State in the suppression of Indian hostilities, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. Also, for the relief of G. H. Patterson. Referred to Committee on Claims.

Investigation of Waugh.

SAN LOUIS OBISPO, Dec. 20.—The investigation of the case of John Waugh, policeman for killing Jose Rodreguez, Sunday night, is not yet concluded. The examination is being thoroughly prosecuted and will no doubt be completed tomorrow.

Cold Weather.

The weather has turned quite cold, with heavy northeast wind.

The $30,000 Race to Come off on the 22d of February.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—A meeting of the Pacific Jockey Club was held to-day at the Lick House at 1 P. M., Major Bryant, President, in the chair. E. J. Baldwin, M. A. Littell, A. Gage, Joe Daniels, Capt. T. G. Moore, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Walden and others, all owners of horses entered for the $30,000 purse, all present. By a unanimous understanding the race will come off on the 22d of February. The best feeling prevailed between the owners of the horses and the Club. The Jockey Club guarantees a certified check for $30,000, to be given to the order of the judges of the race on that day, to be paid to the winners. All the original entries, nine in number, remain in. The meeting adjourned with three cheers from the latter for the Jockey Club.

Alarming News from Treate.

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 20.—Nothing new from the border to-day. The World has a letter from Treate stage station which says: "As near as I can ascertain, we are to have rough times along the line soon. Mexican residents are mobile, it willing to remedy the existing state of affairs. A letter from the Gaskills says they have a guard of 15 men under arms there now, and they feel much easier. There have been two skulking parties around—one of seven and another of four persons. When they found us well fixed they left.

Bad State of Things in Sonora.

TUCSON, Dec. 20.—Mr. W. S. Bronson and Major T. J. Blakeney, well known in San Francisco and Mexico City, just arrived overland from Guaymas, through Sonora, corroborate the reports that the people of that State are in a destitute condition. The troubles greatly prevented the planting and during the ensuing year will depend upon crops of pitaya, a species of cactus, the prospect of which is good. The sentiment of the people is in favor of revolution. Eight hundred men say 300 disciplined troops could march successfully through the State, despite the State forces. The federal authorities are entirely neutral in the contest now going on, notwithstanding they recognize the elections last summer as legal. They were told by the Prefect of Guaymas, that if a battle between the revolutionists and State forces should occur there, the 300 federal troops would take no part whatever. They describe the country as an easy route for a railway.

Dedication of the Merchants' Exchange, at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21.—The Merchants' Exchange in the new Chamber of Commerce building was dedicated this morning with elaborate and impressive ceremonies. The Exchange was called to order in the old building, which has been occupied for 20 years, 11 A. M. by President Rowland, and a beautiful and affecting farewell address was delivered by Wagner Crowner, one of the oldest merchants. The procession formed under the grand marshal, Wm. Hamilton, and several aides. After the great crowd entered the spacious new hall, the assembly was called to order by Hon. O. E. Stanard, and Maj. Francis, the architect of the building, was introduced, and in a brief speech surrendered his trust and delivered the keys of the hall to R. J. Lockland, President of the Chamber of Commerce Association, who in turn gave them into the possession of D. P. Rowland, President of the Merchants' Exchange, who then delivered a congratulatory address.

Commercial Loan Company to be Wound Up

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—The directors of the Commercial Loan Company yesterday decided to wind up their business, not on account of financial troubles, but because of personal disagreement in the management. Liabilities, with capital, are $500,000, which amount is fully covered by assets. The suspension causes no excitement in commercial circles.

Preparation for Indian Raid on Texas

GALVESTON, Dec. 21.—Advices from Eagle Pass state that 300 Lipans, Illolos, and Comanche Indian warriors are reported by a Mexican trader at the canyon of San Rodrego, 40 miles above Romilo. It is thought the object of the gathering is depredations in Texas.

Mexican Marauders.

Dispatches from Fort Clarke, says the Mexicans crossed the river 12 miles below San Felipe, and surprised Pond's ranch. Killed three men and captured all the arms, horses and 600 head of cattle. Companies of citizens were organized to follow them. Much trouble is feared.

Suicide.

GRAND RAPIDS, Dec. 21.—G. N. Cady, formerly a prominent business man of Albion, Mich., suicided here last night by taking poison.

H. C. Bowen vs. Brooklyn Eagle.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The suit of H. C. Bowen vs. the Brooklyn Eagle was begun to-day in the same court room in which the Tilton-Beecher case was tried.

Horrible Massacre.

A horrible massacre took place near Atoka, Indian Nation. The bodies of four persons were found burned on the prairie, two of which were females. Two were burned beyond recognition. The others were whites. A pony with a lady's side-saddle, a dog and a gun, were found near by. They had all been shot. Three men who were seen riding nine miles from the spot are supposed to have done the shooting. The prairies were fired to destroy their tracks.

Bank of England.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance today, £15,000

Murderer Hanged.

Henry Wainwright, convicted of the murder of Harriet Lane, in White Chapel road in this city, was hung at Newgate today. Just before he was pinioned he [illegible] the governor of the prison a written statement, which he desired to be made public. In this paper he acknowledged the justice of the sentence, though he does not explicitly admit that he murdered the young woman.

Gen Jovellar Captain-General of Cuba.

MADRID, Dec. 20.—Gen. Jovellar, Minister of War, has been appointed Captain-General of Cuba, and, with Caballa, will shortly leave for Cuba. General Quesada will be appointed commander-in-chief of the armies of the North.

Mount Vesuvius.

NAPLES, Dec. 20.—Mount Vesuvius shows a gradual increase of fire and smoke. The instruments in the observatory are in motion, and Prof. Palmieri predicts a long period of eruption.

Steamer Collided and Sunk.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 21.—The steamship Louisiana, from the West Indies, was sunk in Gronde river after a collision. Sixteen persons were drowned, including the Captain.

Change of War Minister.

MADRID, Dec. 21.—Gen. Ceballos will succeed Gen. Jovellar as Minister of War.

Centennial Commissioner from Rome.

ROME, Dec. 21.—Signor Blanc, Station Minister at Washington, has been nominated Centennial Commissioner.

Election of French Senators.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The following were elected members of the French Senate today: Admiral de Montarguac, the Minister of Marine, and M. Leon Maleville, member for Tarnet Garonne, of the Left Centre. This completes the list of Senators, so far as the National Assembly is considered, 75 members having been elected by that body. Other members, 225 in number, are to be elected indirectly by the people of the several departments.

Insurrection at St. Thomas.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—A special from Lisbon states that a Portuguese gunboat has been ordered to the Island of St. Thomas, in the Gulf of Guinea, on account of an alleged insurrection of negroes.

Another Steamship Disaster.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 22.—The steamer Louisiana sunk in ten minutes after she was struck. The steamer Gironde rescued 100 of her passengers and crew. All persons drowned were passengers, except the Captain.

A Former Captain General of Cuba Dead.

MADRID, Dec. 22.—Gen. Ceballos Deagles formerly Captain Ceneral of Cuba, [illegible]

[illegible] the total number killed by the explosion at Bremen Haven is 128 and of wounded 55. The Bremen Aid Committee reports that 20 of the injured are hopelessly maimed and there are 56 widows and 125 orphans of victims of the disaster, for the benefit of whom it proposes to raise a subscription of £75,000.

A Polygamist Sentenced.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 21.—Geo. Reynolds polygamist, to-day sentenced by Chief Justice White to four years imprisonment and $500 fine, was released on $10,000 bail during appeal to the supreme court.

Terrible Explosion and Loss of Life.

BOSTON, Dec. 22.—Shortly before 7 P. M., a terrible explosion occurred in South Boston by which a large number of persons were injured and several killed. It is impossible as yet to learn the cause of the explosion or the extent of the damage. The gas main running under Federal street bridge to South Boston, and along the water's edge under the pavement on Federal street, exploded with a loud report, tearing up the pavement for 170 feet or more. The street was thronged with people at the time. Many were buried under the debris. Crosby's grain warehouse was badly shattered and will have to be taken down. The foreman was intantly killed. It is supposed that several persons were blown into the water. Several dead bodies have already been taken out.

The list of killed and wounded thus far is 7; fatally injured, 4; seriously hurt, 9; slightly injured, 3. Several persons are missing and are supposed to have been blown into the water and drowned. It is supposed that the recent cold weather caused the pipe to burst and the ground becoming impregnated with gas, ignition from some cause communicated fire to the confined gas and caused the explosion. A witness states that the first intimation was a bright flash about the middle of the causeway, followed by a sharp explosion paving-stones, etc., flying in all directions. Almost immediately the causeway on the right hand, under which the gas main was, fell into the river, carrying with it several persons who were stunned. The number of the injured or killed by the explosion has not yet been ascertained; but it is feared that several are buried under the debris, or are at the bottom of the river. The pavement was completely torn up for a distance of 150 feet.

Held to Answer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—W. A. Bombey, secretary of the New York Rectifying Co. was this afternoon held by the U. S. Commission for the action of the grand jury, for having fatied to make proper entries of the