

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

A New Jersey county court refused to allow a witness to testify in an action for debt because of his denial of punishment for perjury by the Almighty. The witness said he believed in the existence of a Supreme being, and did not deny a future state, but believed the penalty prescribed by the state would be the only punishment he would receive in case he gave false testimony under oath. On an appeal from the decision of the lower court the supreme court of New Jersey has overruled the original decision. Judge Dixon, in delivering the opinion, held that the right of the witness to testify was denied merely because he did not believe that God would punish perjury and that he was thus deprived of a civil right—that of testifying in his own behalf—while the constitution of the state provides that no person "shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil right merely on account of his religious principles." It is said the case will be appealed to the United States supreme court, as it involves an underlying constitution question which has never been decided.

Canada is outdoing the United States in the matter of trusts. There is being organized a whisky trust, which, if accounts are half correct, makes it the most comprehensive affair of this kind yet arranged. A distiller in Western Canada opposite Detroit a short time since, who has at present in store 3,000,000 gallons of whisky in his warehouse, conceived a scheme of getting all the distilleries in Canada under one management and associated with himself three others. They decided to send representatives to England to confer with English capitalists and form a trust, and these men are now in England, accompanied by one of the ablest lawyers in Canada, and it is probable that the deal has been made. Every gallon of whisky in Canada will be bought and the distilleries will go with the sale. This transaction throws in the shade anything of the kind that has yet been attempted on this side of the line, where the trusts have in many cases got hold of a sufficient amount of some product to bulldoze the market, but have not, as in the present instance, owned all the stock in the country.

"We grand army men are watching President Harrison very closely," remarked an old soldier last Wednesday. "What is the matter?" we asked. "Well, Tanner seems to be about the only honest man connected with the administration. He was carrying out the promises of the party, and many of us had begun to hope that after all these weary years, a saved country would show its gratitude when the brigadiers fired him." "How do the old soldiers who do not belong to your order feel?" "I don't know. They haven't helped us work up the pension business, and may not feel themselves betrayed."

Col M Fuller of Perryopolis, Penn., is said to bear such a striking resemblance to ex-President Cleveland that he is often mistaken for him. In Baltimore, three years ago, Colonel Fuller was serenaded by a brass band which played "Hail to the chief," while the Pennsylvania lay in his bed at midnight. At another time a play was stopped in a Washington theater to give the audience a chance to applaud Cleveland's double as he walked modestly to a seat in the orchestra.

The late Dr Barnard of Columbia college has willed all of his estate, excepting the income which goes to Mrs Barnard, to Columbia college. The value of the gift is estimated at about \$50,000 and includes a valuable collection of rare books and manuscripts got together by the dead scholar.

Jay Cooke is once again a prominent figure in Philadelphia, and still wears the venerable white hat that made him a familiar figure there 20 years ago. It is currently believed that he made a million dollars out of the Horn Silver mine since his failure in 1873, and that he has kept the money and added to it.

Thirty-five thousand Spaniards last year emigrated to South America, and 10,000 to Algeria. The Basque provinces, the Asturias and Galicia are furnishing thousands of sober and able-bodied workers for the Argentine Republic. The Spanish government tries in vain to dissuade the people from leaving their homes. They prefer free land and high wages in the new world rather than low wages and crushing taxation in the old.

Word is given out that the agricultural department, under Uncle Jerry Rusk, will continue its experiments with sorghum sugar at Fort Scott, Kansas. There have been great expectations from this industry, but the practical results thus far have been exceedingly small. It will be interesting to see what Secretary Rusk can do with it.

The woollen manufacturers are willing to let Congress do what it will about duties on wool if it will, by a prohibitory tariff give them control of the market for fabric. The people who buy and wear clothes will have something to say on this question at the ballot-box in 1892.

TANNER'S SUCCESSOR.

President Harrison is having a hard time in seeking for a successor to Corporal Tanner.

Major Merrill, of Massachusetts, developed a bad case of the foot-and-mouth disease which proved fatal to the Corporal—that is, he opened his mouth and put his foot in it and is out of the race. What the President wants is a professional veteran who will pursue Tanner's policy of "busting the surplus" without talking about it. Soldiers who have the old-fashioned notion that a pension list is a roll of honor made up of disabled, needy and deserving veterans, and who have scrupulous ideas as to the law, will not meet the requirements of this Administration. It wants some one who will "be liberal to the old soldiers and not talk."

Such men are, unfortunately, not scarce, but an additional qualification is necessary. The Pension Commissioner must, it appears, be acceptable to the powers that be in the grand Army of the Republic. The President has practically adopted an amendment to the Constitution requiring the "advice and consent" of this organization to his nomination, preceding the advice and consent of the Senate. As Gen. Alger, a probable rival of President Harrison for the nomination in 1892, is at the head of the Grand Army, the complication is increased.

What a pitiable exhibition is made by a little politician in a great office!

The British Government paid last year for the conveyance of its mails \$9,483,455. Of this amount \$4,548,215 was paid to railroad companies for carrying mails, while the sum paid to international steamship lines for a like service was \$3,580,804. These are figures worth noting by us when it is remembered that all the mail which we send or receive from abroad is conveyed in foreign vessels, most of them British.

It is high time some one pulled another cipher on the late William Shakespeare. It was he who said: "Your tanner will last you some nice years." Our tanner only lasted us about six months.

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