

THREE ORIGINAL STORIES.

During the coming year, and commencing December 1st, the WEEKLY UNION will publish three Prize Stories of California. The first, the publication of which will commence in the first week of December, will be entitled, "The Ventures and Adventures of Charlie Gould." This is an extremely interesting story of the Stock-Gambling period of California, and was written by Edward F. Cahill, of Los Angeles. The price of the WEEKLY UNION will be \$2 50 per annum.

THE REASONS.

For declaring the WEEKLY UNION the best family paper ever printed, it is the only weekly paper which is issued in two parts, and carries to its readers the news of the day twice each week. By this means the news is to the great mass of readers in the country nearly as fresh as if gleaned from a daily paper. It is the only sixteen-page weekly journal in the State; it is a complete news, commercial, literary and critical paper; its columns have special departments carefully edited for the farmer, mechanic, merchant, the housewife, the young people, the lovers of curious puzzles, educators, artists, bankers, brokers, readers of fiction and poetry, and the general reader of the political, scientific and business news of the day. In December there will be presented in the WEEKLY UNION the first of the new series, "The Ventures and Adventures of Charlie Gould." It is a deeply interesting story of the stock market and stock gambling era of California. It is written by Edward F. Cahill of Los Angeles, and is the first of the WEEKLY UNION'S \$200 prize stories, for which there was such active competition. The WEEKLY UNION is mailed for one year, prepaid, to any address in the United States for \$2 50.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

In New York yesterday Government bonds were quoted at 113 1/4 for 4s of 1897; 101 1/4 for 4s of 1881; 111 1/4 for 4s; sterling, \$4 51/8 1/2; silver bars, 111 1/2.

Silver in London yesterday, 51 1/2; consols, 99 9/16; 5 per cent. United States bonds, 104 1/2; 4 1/2; 115.

In San Francisco half dollars are quoted at 4 1/2 cents; par; Mexican dollars, 60; buying, 61; selling, 62.

At Liverpool yesterday wheat was quoted at 10s 6 1/2 for good to choice California.

The mining share market in San Francisco yesterday was more than usually interesting. The transactions were the largest in a long time, and the demand was quite general from Union Consolidated on the north to Alta on the south.

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE FORGED LETTER INCIDENT.

It is perforce admitted now that the so-called Morey letter forgery did exercise a marked influence upon the Presidential election. It is asserted, and with considerable plausibility, that it so far changed opinion in this State as to give the majority of its electoral vote to General Hancock. And common experience testifies to the prevalence of a belief in the genuineness of the letter notwithstanding all the evidence against it. In the light of these facts it becomes expedient to inquire carefully into the causes and reasons of this popular credulity. It is not sufficient to get rid of the question by postulating popular stupidity. What is most to be desired is that similar errors should be excluded in the future, and before we can discover how this may be effected we must understand how the error which has here occurred came to be committed. The circumstance that the Morey letter was not at all subtle or skillful renders its success the more remarkable, for it tends to show that a very simple fraud, if it be only put forward with sufficient hardihood, is capable of effecting the most important political changes. Of course the demonstration of such a fact must be attended with considerable danger; the danger, we mean, that the success of such frauds will cause them to be resorted to habitually. But this, together with all the perils which spring from defective education, must be faced boldly, and the lesson must be enforced that for every political stumbling-block of the kind the one available remedy is increase of light. It is true enough that more knowledge does not guarantee moral soundness. The most depraved inclinations may subsist with the highest cultivation of the intellect. Popular education cannot extinguish dishonesty in the leaders of men, therefore. But what it can and will do is to protect the masses against the coarser and more apparent deceptions of demagogues. In the case before us those who were persuaded of the genuineness of the Morey letter showed themselves to be destitute of the capacity of discrimination which belongs to intelligent judgment. When a letter is put forward as having been written by a well-known statesman on a topic of public interest, and there is controversy as to its genuineness, it becomes necessary to apply to the case certain rules of evidence. It is not, of course, to be expected that every man can analyze the case with the acumen and method of a trained lawyer, but every man ought to be able to apply certain common-sense considerations to the subject. For example, it should occur to the ordinarily intelligent citizen to inquire—Whether the sentiments ascribed to the alleged writer of the letter are in harmony with those which he is known positively to have expressed at other times on the same topic? Whether it is certain that any such person as the letter purports to be addressed to, exists, or did exist, at the alleged date of the letter? Whether (in the present case) it was probable that General Garfield, writing to a stranger, would have indorsed his letter "personal and confidential." Whether the handwriting resembled General Garfield's acknowledged handwriting? Whether the errors of spelling in the letter were likely to have been committed by a man of General Garfield's education and epistolary experience? Whether the appearance of the letter, so near the end of the campaign, and under such peculiar circumstances, was not suspicious. Such interrogatories as these would, or should, naturally have suggested themselves to persons of very ordinary intelligence, and who were not accustomed to sift evidence scientifically. That no such methods of reaching a sound judgment could have been resorted to by those who adopted the belief that the Morey letter was genuine, is, however, self-evident. They must have accepted it despite the swarming evidences of its spuriousness which surrounded the whole case, and the presumption is that they were honestly convinced of its truth. Some were very probably influenced by the consideration that nobody would venture to fabricate a letter of this kind. Not a few were probably deceived by the bold stroke of the Democratic National Committee in causing the forgery to be engraved and spread broadcast over the country. It is impossible that any of them should have reasoned about the matter, because whoever once began to reason about it must have ended by becoming persuaded that the thing was a forgery.

Of course this does not affect the results or their bearings. The fact remains that a Presidential election was very nearly carried by a forged letter, and this notwithstanding popular experience of campaign devices. Evidently if the government of the country can be made to depend upon such tricks, there never can be any security. In such a case argument and principle and reason must be thrust into the background, and political jugglery of the coarsest kind will take the ascendancy. But this is not a tenable view, since it involves the degradation of our civilization and the supremacy of our inferior elements. The truth is that the peculiarly close nature of the late contest brought into special prominence those elements which in an ordinary case would have remained in obscurity. A great deal was made to devolve upon the least intelligent classes, and they acted as they might have been expected to act, that is to say, they delivered themselves up an easy prey to demagogues. They were incapable of reasoning, and therefore they did not reason. But they were not incapable of absorbing prejudice, and therefore they accepted the story of the forged letter with simple credulity, and forthwith resolved to vote against General Garfield. Is there in this credulity anything astonishing? Must we expect that politics is the only field in which gullibility has no existence? Thackeray has said somewhere that society is composed of pigeons and hawks; that some men were born to be plucked and plundered, and that they can by no means be rescued from their destiny. And do we not see the demonstration of this philosophy around us every day? Who are the simple souls whose perennial and exhaustless folly supports all the quackeries of the world? Who are the patrons of the fortune-tellers, the clairvoyants, of the Madame Rachels, of the myriad charlatans who derive profit from stupidity and sensuality and the diseases of vice and the cowardice of conscious guilt and the blindness of vanity and the heat of sexual passion? Day unto

day uttereth knowledge, but not for these. With monotonous iteration the old tricks and swindles are exposed, one after another, but to no purpose. There is no mouse but will enter the trap when it smells the toasted cheese. There is no trap too old-fashioned to catch mice with. The coarse rogues of a hundred years ago still suffice to fleece the yokels of today. The ancient and hoary "straggam" has its victims semperiternally, though it is explained by an officious press three hundred and sixty-five days in the year. The growth of human folly in fact appears to the casual observer to proceed step by step with the growth of human intelligence, and the task of clearing away the thorny waste of national ignorance and perversity may well seem an hopeless one to those who do not look beneath the surface.

But for all this ignorance and stupidity, for all this headlong folly which runs shut eyes into the toils on every side, there is but one cure. Enlightenment, however painful and tedious, must be the remedy. There is no other to be had or to be thought of. Of old the prevalence of ignorance was taken advantage of by the intelligent minority to fortify their own supremacy in the State. The masses, said they, are steeped in folly and barbarism, and incapable of self-government. They must be driven and herded like cattle, and they must attend to all their affairs for them. So long as this theory stood the world could not advance. The minority, having power, necessarily abused it. The majority, being impotent, necessarily suffered. It was not until the universality of the right to knowledge was recognized that this theory of exclusive government was overthrown. Situated as we are there can be no middle path. Our political system was chosen for us by our fathers. The power to restrict the suffrage has passed away. There are the masses, possessing equal political authority. Upon their intelligent exercise of the authority placed in their hands, everything must depend. That they will blunder is to be expected. That occasionally the inferior minds will exhibit their inferiority, as in this forged letter case, is to be expected. That the credulity which finds manifestation so abundantly in every other phase of life will also be apparent in politics, is inevitable. But if we wish to secure ourselves against the dangerous ascendancy of credulity and lack of judgment, if we wish to guarantee the country against the possible repetition of such a scandal as the Morey letter, we must devote ourselves to the one great agency of popular education. It is no doubt a menace to good government that people who are incapable of distinguishing between a clumsy forgery and a genuine letter should be under any circumstances so numerous enough to change the result of a Presidential election by their irrational caprice, but neither deploring their folly nor railing at their stupidity will make them any wiser, or deprive them of one tithe of their dangerous power. There they are, and they must be reckoned with in every election. And since they cannot be disfranchised it remains only to instruct them. It is possible that even now a great many persons who voted for General Hancock under the belief that the Morey letter was true, have realized their error, and it may safely be assumed that all such persons are guaranteed against similar deceptions for all time to come. As to acting upon the men who made use of forgery as a political weapon, it is useless unless they can be made examples of through the criminal law. They are the physical consequences of political degeneration just as the worms are the result of carnal profligacy. They will act after their kind, and where there is ignorance and perversity they will play upon them successfully. Remove the ignorance, and immediately political careers would be closed to such men as Barnum. They, therefore, may very well be ignored in analyzing the Morey incident. The remedy for popular credulity does not consist in exterminating the charlatans, but in making charlatanism unprofitable. You cannot destroy the seeds of imposture so long as dupes abound. It is by the extension of knowledge alone that dupes are to be eliminated, and their removal entails a double gain upon Society.

It is probable that not less than ten million votes were cast at the late Presidential election. Judging from the increase in the popular vote between 1872 and 1876 this is a moderate estimate, and in the latter year eight millions and a half were cast. Of this great number more than four and a half million votes were cast for the Democratic ticket. Is it possible to assume that intelligence and patriotism were here the controlling motives? Can it be believed by any one who recalls the character of the late Democratic campaign, its lack of principle, its flagrant inconsistencies, its lavish use of fraud, its deliberate attacks upon the freedom of the franchise, its calumnies and its crimes, that between four and five millions of American citizens preferred that party programme on its merits? Such a conclusion is clearly inadmissible. On the contrary, nothing can explain the strength of the Democratic vote but the prevalence of unreasoning docility among those who cast it. And this unreasoning docility, which leads men to support the most dangerous heresies and to approve the most flagrant abuses, is a standing danger to the republic. Under existing circumstances it is a danger, moreover, which may at any time overcome the strenuous opposition of the intelligent elements of the voting population, for the reason that our political ignorance is constantly and largely recruited and reinforced from outside, whereas our political intelligence is the slow growth of the individual educational processes. Every Presidential election brings great accessions of strength to the least stable and trustworthy class of voters. At such times the most energetic measures are taken by partisan leaders to procure the naturalization of foreigners who are only political merit is that they will vote as they are directed, or as they are paid to vote. The naturalization laws are notoriously useless in preventing the introduction of ignorant and unfit elements to the voting population. The Courts in our great seaport cities admit thousands to citizenship who have not the remotest conception of the form of government under which they are to live. It is fortunate if these newcomers are even able to speak the language of the country

that could be secured under the circumstances. It was not the will of the State that hydraulic mining should be put a stop to. To have done this would have been to destroy an important interest and to drive a large capital out of the State. It certainly could not have been the wish of the State that the flow of debris from the hydraulic mines should be permitted to continue without hindrance, since that would have involved the sacrifice of more property than the mining region represents. Neither the miners nor the farmers could by themselves undertake the extensive works required to handle the debris, and therefore it became necessarily a State question. When the State needs any important and costly internal improvements it turns to Congress for aid, and nobody in such cases thinks it hard that taxpayers in distant parts of the Union should be called upon to contribute to these projects. There is no more reason for objecting to the debris bill. Every intelligent citizen of California ought to be able to perceive that this is one of the cases in which State aid is indispensable, and that therefore it should be given without protest or grudging. Especially ought San Francisco to support the debris bill, for her harbor is dependent upon the success of the measures now in progress for its ultimate preservation. The press of that city should be foremost in defense of the engineering works which are now being pushed to completion, and her delegation should be solid on the same position. For unless the Sacramento river can be protected against the flow of debris the San Francisco harbor must assuredly succumb to the rapid and destructive advance of that agency. This the investigations and surveys of the engineers have conclusively established, and it will hardly be contended that the 'salvation of the harbor of San Francisco is a strictly local question, as concerns the rest of the State. The fact is that the debris question is an emphatically a State issue as the denunciation of the Sierra, and it will have to so be regarded. The only possible outcome of the narrow and shortsighted policy advocated by those who oppose the debris bill would be the successive abandonment of different parts of the State to destruction, and the consequent piecemeal ruin of the whole community. If the Sacramento valley, Sacramento and Marysville, San Francisco and her harbor, were ruined, the southern counties would find that they had not lightened the burden of taxation by the change, nor would they be able to discover any appreciable advance in the prosperity of their own section.

THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION OF GRACE.

It will be remembered that the election of Grace, Kelly's nominee for Mayor of New York, was opposed on the ground that he was a Roman Catholic, and therefore could not be trusted with the distribution of the school fund. The New York *Nation*, after the election, comments as follows: "Mr. Grace's election, together with that of the Democratic Aldermen, probably makes a Catholic majority in the Board of Apportionment, which distributes the school fund. That this will lead to an attempt to divert a portion of it to sectarian schools, is, of course, not certain, but it seems very probable. Mr. Grace, in his letter of acceptance, praised the common school system; but what he said is 'quite consistent with his thinking' that Catholics ought to have a share of the money for common schools 'managed in their own way.' That Kelly 'thinks so there can be no doubt; for 'Kelly is a pious Catholic, and on the question whether Catholics should use public money, if they can get it, for Catholic schools, the Church has never in any country exhibited the slightest wavering.' She has compromised on most other questions of a politico-religious kind, but 'never on this. In fact, we are willing to stake our very slender reputation as theologians on the assertion that if Mr. Grace as Mayor has discretion in the 'disposition of the school fund, and fails to give the Catholics a show, he will commit a sin.' This, then, is what the people of New York have to anticipate. That the danger is real, the fact that the most cautious journal in the country makes such assertions as the above clearly indicates. The implications of what has to be apprehended in this case are of course not confined to New York, but concern the whole country. If in one city of one State in the Union the Catholics can insert the thin end of the wedge, and secure a diversion of part of the public school fund to the support of sectarian schools, they will assuredly not stop there. New York in such a case will be used as a fulcrum wherewith to move the whole country, and everywhere the attacks upon the school system will be redoubled. The course of Mr. Grace, therefore, must be watched with keen interest and anxiety. He will find the pressure too strong to be resisted, and that he will attempt the diversion of the school fund, as predicted by the *Nation*, and if he does it is difficult to see how the invasion can be resisted under the circumstances. It would seem as though the beginning of a great and formidable and far-reaching conflict was indicated in the election of this man Grace, in fact, and the country will do well to keep its eyes upon a condition of things which is by no means a purely local question, but may, perhaps we should say, must be transferred to a broader field before it has progressed far.

THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SCHEME.

It has been proposed to found a Christian College, as an offset to the State University, the breadth of whose curriculum has offended some pious persons. There can be no possible objection to the founding of a Christian College by those who have the means to bestow upon such an enterprise, but it ought to be obvious that such an institution cannot supply the place of the State University, and that it can in fact occupy no higher position than is held by any one of the strictly sectarian colleges which already abound. For the main purpose of a University must be, and certainly ought to be, to encourage the pursuit of Truth through Science. Now any institution of learning which sets out with a fixed formula of theological ideas, is to that extent hampered, and its purpose is to that extent thwarted. If the dogmas of Christianity are, as claimed by

their followers, absolutely true, it follows necessarily that the earnest seekers after Truth must reach them, and cannot reach any other beliefs. To exhibit apprehension lest the untrammelled pursuit of Truth should lead the student away from the fundamental concepts of Christianity, is to cast doubt upon the genuineness of that creed. It is difficult to understand how sincere Christians who are also intelligent, can object to a University because it does not undertake to adopt such test oaths as so long disgraced the English Universities. The utter futility of all such devices to influence the character of the student has been too fully demonstrated to require further attention. The form of subscription to articles of faith has very certainly made many hypocrites and many skeptics but never an intelligent believer. The true method is that now followed at the State University, namely, to leave the student free to form his own religious belief. The evidences are all at his command. The facts, so far as ascertained or ascertainable, are placed before him. He is called upon to exercise his reason, and the result of his investigation, whatever it be, is the best result which could have been attained, because it is the product of honest and dispassionate inquiry. No other system can supercede this, and therefore a so-called Christian College will only be on a level with the ordinary denominational institutions which are supported by such sectarians as are afraid of the consequence of unprejudiced discussion and research.

IRELAND.

The expected collision in Ireland has thus far been deferred, but unless the present indications are untrustworthily an outbreak is liable to occur at any moment, and if it does, of course all thought of remedial legislation will have to be abandoned until peace is restored. What the Irish people expect to gain by insurrection it is impossible to conceive. They must be aware that success in such a policy is utterly hopeless. Their leaders must know that bloodshed can only produce greater wretchedness for the insurgents than ever. Every uprising of the kind will be suppressed, as a matter of course, and when the tumult has subsided the English Government will find it more difficult than before to enlist sympathy in support of land reform. The Land League has brought the country to the verge of civil war, and beyond that point there is no prospect, except on the path to destruction. The Irish leaders appear to take a very singular view of the situation. They continually threaten insurrection in the event of this or that move on the part of the Government, as if they were incapable of perceiving that rebellion must be more disastrous for themselves and their followers than for any one else. It is not England that has to fear the results of an Irish rebellion; it is Ireland herself. There can be no doubt about the power of the Government to put down any rising that can possibly occur, and it is impossible to see how any good result to the Irish can come from such a policy. They are in fact trying to make it impracticable for a really friendly Government to give them the reforms they demand, and this certainly is a very astonishing position, or it would be astonishing in any other country than Ireland. There never was a time when the disposition to deal fairly by Irish grievances was so conspicuous as now. The press of England has for once shown a desire to discuss those grievances in a dispassionate manner, and has at last reached the conclusion that they have foundation in fact. With prudent and cautious management the Land League might have made important gains in the next session of Parliament. But it now looks as though all these advantages were about to be flung away, and the whole situation to be plunged into the hopeless bog of anarchy and insurrection. Such a consummation would almost certainly postpone land reform for several years, and this positive evil would have been purchased at an awful cost of life and happiness. As things are drifting, however, nothing is less probable than a pacific solution, and if once the people begin fighting it will be impossible to do anything with the situation save in the old deplorable but unavoidable way.

FRENCH POLITICS.

Another French Cabinet has gone to pieces under the strain of the unauthorized congregation laws, and once more President Grévy is obliged to call upon M. Gambetta to form a Ministry. The defeat of the Ministers was technically based on the rejection of the Education bill, but it is well understood that the real cause of the vote of the Chambers was the conflict with the monastic orders. The Government cannot afford to suspend or abandon the measures it has set in motion, however. The very fact that some of the orders against which the law is directed have undertaken to resist its execution, renders it imperatively necessary that the policy should be carried out. The question of the supremacy of the State over the Church must be settled in every country at some time, and no matter what complications it gives rise to it is the part of statesmanship to force it to a conclusion. If the French Republic is to live it must live as a purely secular government, and it must be sovereign in its jurisdiction. There is no room in any rational system of government for hierarchical pretensions, and they must be resolutely excluded, or they will bring about the ruin of the edifice into which they are admitted. Whether the Chamber understood clearly what it was doing in voting down the Ministerial programme is perhaps somewhat doubtful, but assuredly it cannot comprehend the interests of France if it puts any obstacles in the way of the present governmental policy. The State has the sole right to the control of the education of the people. No organization which pays allegiance to a foreign head, which arrogates to itself temporal as well as spiritual sovereignty, which sets duty to one's country, can be trusted any way to educate the young. All questions of religious dogma apart, these considerations suffice to demonstrate the necessity for that separation between Church and State in matters of education which France is now laboring to effect. With few secular schools, amply endowed in their scientific departments, the State can afford to extend equal and indiscriminating countenance and protection to all religious denominations, leaving it to the enlightened citizen to follow the bent of his own inclination in this respect, and taking effecting guarantees against the premature biasing of the rising generation. This is the object of the legislation which is now causing so much discussion in France. There appears to be no doubt that it has the approval of the great body of the people, and that its opponents are generally those who, as Legitimists, would impose upon the nation the yoke of hereditary sovereignty, under the obsolete pretense of divine right. At least these people are consistent, but they certainly are neither safe nor popular guides.

KELLY AND TILDEN.

Kelly is endeavoring to make it appear that the defeat of the Democratic party in New York was caused by the apathy or downright hostility of Tilden. We suppose it is tolerably certain that the statesman of Gramercy Park was not among those who bewailed the result of the Presidential election. In fact he would hardly have been human had he not inwardly chuckled at a catastrophe which enabled him to take the position that all this misfortune came of abandoning him at Cincinnati. They dropped him and the fraud issue, and they were beaten. It is a case of *Post hoc, ergo propter hoc*, but the logic is good enough for the commonality. As for Kelly, however, it is very well understood that he really cared nothing for the question of the Presidency, but a great deal for the question of the Mayoralty of New York. He had nominated for that office a man who would serve him, and that was all he looked to. Therefore he directed all his efforts to insuring the election of Grace, and let Hancock take his chances. Now Grace was unpopular, and his nomination brought out a tremendous opposition. It was so strong that it came within two thousand of beating him, and incidentally it did beat Hancock. The Republican Presidential fight moreover was thoroughly made to New York, and no stone was left unturned to secure votes for Garfield. It is quite possible that Mr. Tilden did not go out of his way to help his dear friend General Hancock, but the supposition that anything he did or failed to do, seriously affected the result, is preposterous, and never would have been advanced had not Kelly felt very much in need of a scapegoat.

HARDLY REPUBLICANIZED.

The scene in the French Chamber of Deputies when the recalcitrant member, Baudry D'Asson, refused to leave after his expulsion had been decreed, and subsequently had to be carried out, kicking and screaming by a score of soldiers, hardly comported with republican ideas. Fancy a file of Federal troops being marched into the House of Representatives to remove an obstinate member, and he "pitching into" the soldiers tooth and nail while the House was in session. It is obvious that such a scene could not occur in this country, and it is equally clear that wherever it can occur the spirit of democratic institutions has not yet become assimilated. This French deputy evidently had no idea of the dignity of his position. He appears to have acted throughout rather like a perverse and petulant school-boy than as a national representative. Parliamentary rules had no meaning for him. Being in the wrong, and justly reproved, he resorted to lawless methods, and chose to scandalize the Chamber and disgrace himself rather than forego this ridiculous exhibition of his spleen. M. Baudry D'Asson is plainly not a born legislator, nor fitted for the duties of a representative. He ought to be unseated and sent home to the constituency he has discredited.

THE ELECTION RETURNS.

In two counties in this State, viz: San Diego and Humboldt, the official canvass of the returns will not be made until Monday, in consequence of the great distances to be traversed in collecting them. The returns to come in, however, cannot appreciably change the general result. Five Hancock Electors and one Garfield Elector have certainly been chosen. The one Hancock Elector who has been defeated is David S. Terry. The one Garfield Elector who has been elected is Henry Edgerton. These results may be regarded as definitive.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

(From San Francisco exchanges of November 15th.)

Duties paid the Custom-house yesterday were \$20,118 25; making a total of \$164,520 07 for the month.

John Skae, the mining operator, is recovering from the small-pox, and will be out in about a fortnight.

During the month of October the Central Pacific Railroad carried 3,541 through passengers toward West and 7,735 toward East, making a net gain to the east of 1,106—the largest in a single month for some time.

No new cases of small-pox have been found since Tuesday last, as shown by the Health Office records. Many supposed cases of small-pox have been reported to the Health officers meantime, but upon investigation the reports proved to be without foundation.

Dr. Murray of St. Mary's Hospital states that about twenty cases of leprosy among white men have come under his notice of late, a number of Italians being among the victims. There is no law compelling lepers to go to the Twenty-sixth Street Hospital, and cases are scattering throughout the city.

The cash in the municipal treasury was counted yesterday by Mayor Kelloch and Auditor Dunn. The process of counting was by taking the weight of all sacks, the contents of the first sack were run over, counted piece by piece and then weighed. The amount of cash reported on hand was \$637,557 99, or \$3 98 more than the books called for.

George A. Wheeler, who is under arrest for the murder of Adella J. Tilton, his sister-in-law, is in the County Jail, awaiting the time when he shall be called for trial. To a newspaper reporter, yesterday, he stated that he believed he was insane at the time he killed his sister-in-law. He also stated that there have been a number of cases of insanity in his family.

Uebler's Co.'s *China Breef Tonic*.

"As a counteractant to debilitating influences (lassitude, nervous depression, debility, malaria, dyspepsia, liver complaints, heart affections, dropsical troubles, derangements of the stomach and bowels) it is invaluable," says Professor F. W. Hunt, M. D., Honorary Member Imperial Medical Society of St. Petersburg, Russia, etc. All who are run down and debilitated should take it. Beware of cheap, worthless imitations under our and similar names. Ask for Coca Breef Tonic.

Preparations for brick and heavy work when the rains set in are being made in the Eureka hydraulic claim on the Calaveras. A deep "cut" in the bed of the stream facilitates the running of gravel, and a flume facilitates

that could be secured under the circumstances. It was not the will of the State that hydraulic mining should be put a stop to. To have done this would have been to destroy an important interest and to drive a large capital out of the State. It certainly could not have been the wish of the State that the flow of debris from the hydraulic mines should be permitted to continue without hindrance, since that would have involved the sacrifice of more property than the mining region represents. Neither the miners nor the farmers could by themselves undertake the extensive works required to handle the debris, and therefore it became necessarily a State question. When the State needs any important and costly internal improvements it turns to Congress for aid, and nobody in such cases thinks it hard that taxpayers in distant parts of the Union should be called upon to contribute to these projects. There is no more reason for objecting to the debris bill. Every intelligent citizen of California ought to be able to perceive that this is one of the cases in which State aid is indispensable, and that therefore it should be given without protest or grudging. Especially ought San Francisco to support the debris bill, for her harbor is dependent upon the success of the measures now in progress for its ultimate preservation. The press of that city should be foremost in defense of the engineering works which are now being pushed to completion, and her delegation should be solid on the same position. For unless the Sacramento river can be protected against the flow of debris the San Francisco harbor must assuredly succumb to the rapid and destructive advance of that agency. This the investigations and surveys of the engineers have conclusively established, and it will hardly be contended that the 'salvation of the harbor of San Francisco is a strictly local question, as concerns the rest of the State. The fact is that the debris question is an emphatically a State issue as the denunciation of the Sierra, and it will have to so be regarded. The only possible outcome of the narrow and shortsighted policy advocated by those who oppose the debris bill would be the successive abandonment of different parts of the State to destruction, and the consequent piecemeal ruin of the whole community. If the Sacramento valley, Sacramento and Marysville, San Francisco and her harbor, were ruined, the southern counties would find that they had not lightened the burden of taxation by the change, nor would they be able to discover any appreciable advance in the prosperity of their own section.

THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION OF GRACE.

It will be remembered that the election of Grace, Kelly's nominee for Mayor of New York, was opposed on the ground that he was a Roman Catholic, and therefore could not be trusted with the distribution of the school fund. The New York *Nation*, after the election, comments as follows: "Mr. Grace's election, together with that of the Democratic Aldermen, probably makes a Catholic majority in the Board of Apportionment, which distributes the school fund. That this will lead to an attempt to divert a portion of it to sectarian schools, is, of course, not certain, but it seems very probable. Mr. Grace, in his letter of acceptance, praised the common school system; but what he said is 'quite consistent with his thinking' that Catholics ought to have a share of the money for common schools 'managed in their own way.' That Kelly 'thinks so there can be no doubt; for 'Kelly is a pious Catholic, and on the question whether Catholics should use public money, if they can get it, for Catholic schools, the Church has never in any country exhibited the slightest wavering.' She has compromised on most other questions of a politico-religious kind, but 'never on this. In fact, we are willing to stake our very slender reputation as theologians on the assertion that if Mr. Grace as Mayor has discretion in the 'disposition of the school fund, and fails to give the Catholics a show, he will commit a sin.' This, then, is what the people of New York have to anticipate. That the danger is real, the fact that the most cautious journal in the country makes such assertions as the above clearly indicates. The implications of what has to be apprehended in this case are of course not confined to New York, but concern the whole country. If in one city of one State in the Union the Catholics can insert the thin end of the wedge, and secure a diversion of part of the public school fund to the support of sectarian schools, they will assuredly not stop there. New York in such a case will be used as a fulcrum wherewith to move the whole country, and everywhere the attacks upon the school system will be redoubled. The course of Mr. Grace, therefore, must be watched with keen interest and anxiety. He will find the pressure too strong to be resisted, and that he will attempt the diversion of the school fund, as predicted by the *Nation*, and if he does it is difficult to see how the invasion can be resisted under the circumstances. It would seem as though the beginning of a great and formidable and far-reaching conflict was indicated in the election of this man Grace, in fact, and the country will do well to keep its eyes upon a condition of things which is by no means a purely local question, but may, perhaps we should say, must be transferred to a broader field before it has progressed far.

THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SCHEME.

It has been proposed to found a Christian College, as an offset to the State University, the breadth of whose curriculum has offended some pious persons. There can be no possible objection to the founding of a Christian College by those who have the means to bestow upon such an enterprise, but it ought to be obvious that such an institution cannot supply the place of the State University, and that it can in fact occupy no higher position than is held by any one of the strictly sectarian colleges which already abound. For the main purpose of a University must be, and certainly ought to be, to encourage the pursuit of Truth through Science. Now any institution of learning which sets out with a fixed formula of theological ideas, is to that extent hampered, and its purpose is to that extent thwarted. If the dogmas of Christianity are, as claimed by

their followers, absolutely true, it follows necessarily that the earnest seekers after Truth must reach them, and cannot reach any other beliefs. To exhibit apprehension lest the untrammelled pursuit of Truth should lead the student away from the fundamental concepts of Christianity, is to cast doubt upon the genuineness of that creed. It is difficult to understand how sincere Christians who are also intelligent, can object to a University because it does not undertake to adopt such test oaths as so long disgraced the English Universities. The utter futility of all such devices to influence the character of the student has been too fully demonstrated to require further attention. The form of subscription to articles of faith has very certainly made many hypocrites and many skeptics but never an intelligent believer. The true method is that now followed at the State University, namely, to leave the student free to form his own religious belief. The evidences are all at his command. The facts, so far as ascertained or ascertainable, are placed before him. He is called upon to exercise his reason, and the result of his investigation, whatever it be, is the best result which could have been attained, because it is the product of honest and dispassionate inquiry. No other system can supercede this, and therefore a so-called Christian College will only be on a level with the ordinary denominational institutions which are supported by such sectarians as are afraid of the consequence of unprejudiced discussion and research.

IRELAND.

The expected collision in Ireland has thus far been deferred, but unless the present indications are untrustworthily an outbreak is liable to occur at any moment, and if it does, of course all thought of remedial legislation will have to be abandoned until peace is restored. What the Irish people expect to gain by insurrection it is impossible to conceive. They must be aware that success in such a policy is utterly hopeless. Their leaders must know that bloodshed can only produce