

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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UNIVERSITIES AND RELIGION.

THE Sacramento Bee brings against the two great California universities the charge that they are infidel and atheistic. That paper says that the Stanford memorial chapel is "an empty shell so long as a general sea of atheism pervades the faculty, from the president down."

As no plan and specifications are submitted, in the absence of a bill of particulars we assume that these charges mean that science is taught at the universities. It is an old, a very venerable controversy, and at every stage of it the same charges have been made against institutions of learning.

Belief in that cosmogony was regarded as essential to salvation. To deny it was denial of God—infidelity, atheism. Men of science were burned at the stake and broken on the wheel for teaching that the world was round, that it moved, that it was not the center of the universe, and that the sun did not revolve around it.

Finally men began to dig into the crust of the earth and to study its structure. They found there, fixed in the sedimentary rocks, the tracks and bodies of birds and animals that are like no living thing.

As nothing of these things was found in the book of Genesis, "the bat-eyed" men who found them were denounced as robbing young souls of every faith that makes life worth living.

We suspect that the guilt of the universities consists in their teaching that Bruno was right in asserting the heliocentric and denying the geocentric theory of the universe, and in maintaining the rotundity of the earth, and that Galileo was right as to the dual motions of the earth, and that Copernicus was right in his theory of the solar system, of which the earth is a member.

many had held the boards and the battlefield, but the Democratic disturbance is forgotten in the Republican mixup. It seems to mean a new deal in New York Republican politics. Senators Platt and Depew have lost their grip and no longer satisfy the party.

SAN JOSE'S PARK.

FAILURE of the Alum Rock bond proposition to receive the necessary two-thirds vote will be very generally regretted by all the friends of our beautiful neighbor city.

Not to be willing to spend a reasonable sum upon the improvement and preservation of that wonderfully attractive gem shows a failure of appreciation of the treasure of nature's work which is so close to the Garden City.

The improvement of the park, however, would almost inevitably be more than repaid by the increase in the value of San Jose property and the volume of travel and general business.

THE NEW YORK DONNYBROOK.

THE politics of New York is just now sufficiently picturesque and peculiar, militant and mixed to satisfy the most exacting taste for disturbance and confusion.

Preceding this noise of battle on the Republican side, Tam-

THE TWO NICKS.



—PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER.

CARRYING OUT A THEORY

"I was interesting a visitor in the sights of this city," related an attorney to a Philadelphia North American reporter, "and while walking along one of the streets our conversation was interrupted by the rumble of machinery."

OUR CALIFORNIA WINTER

BY A. J. WATERHOUSE.

ROSES at the Christmas time! Where's the like of this, Save in California, where winter glories gleam? Bloom and gold of oranges that gentle breezes kiss— Winter is a fiction, or a half-remembered dream, For every day's a messenger to tell us life is sweet, And every moment bears a smile to cheer us on the way, And the song that nature murmurs is the song that we repeat, For our California winter is September merged in May.

SCENT of dewey blossoms that greet us from the sod— Just one California, wherever we may go— Days with sunshine laden by the loving thought of God, And birds that strive to tell us what the songsters only know, Not an hour for winter between the fall and spring, And snow and ice are but a dream of a forgotten day; For the autumn turns to summer in a ceaseless, rhythmic swing, And our California winter is September merged in May.

ART OF ELOPING IN FRANCE.

The art of eloping—which in fifty years will be perhaps considered as one of the fine arts, who knows—is particularly French. Modern French lovers have kept the romantic character of their ancestors, and some seem to regret the golden time when young demoiselles and young chevaliers escaped on horseback, under cover of the night, from the old and picturesque manors, says a writer in the London Mail.

"CURSE FUND" ODD IDEA OF MAINE MAN

"For more than half my life," said Isaac Clewley of Eddington, Me., "I have been spending from \$5 to \$6 a year to make sure that people will get mad and curse me years after I am dead. It is not a very noble ambition, but I think I am getting my pay as I go along in laughing to myself. I have been a collector of odd and rare coins from a boy, and made a good income from the business as a side line. Now and again I buy coins that I cannot sell at a profit. Sometimes I am imposed on by shrewd men in my own business, though more often the value of my purchases takes a sudden drop while I hold them for a rise."

FUN WAIFS.

This is the Christmas spirit That seems to pervade the earth, "I wonder if this was a bargain, And about how much it's worth" —Puck.

"How much for pulling a tooth?" asked the dentist. "One thousand dollars, sire," replied the dentist. "My good man, you have the wrong idea. I wish a tooth pulled, not my leg." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Something must be done to curb the arrogance of the men who own the railways." "Oh, I dunno," rejoined Farmer Cortnessel, "I once met a man that owned a whole lot of railroad stock. Compared to some ticket agents and conductors, he was downright affable." —Washington Star.

"I wonder what it was that suggested the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?" "The spectacle of a political candidate kissing a lot of helpless babies, perhaps." —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

SONG OF CHRISTMAS.

Oh, heart of mine! from the store divine Of memories that you hold, Sing me a song that is sweet and strong Of the Christmas days of old. Sing of the eager heart and eye As the season of joy drew near; And we marked the lessening days go by. When the sun rose late in the winter With a star backward thought or sigh For the waning year!

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

TREES—Reader, City. In natural forests the fir, spruce, hemlock, pines and beech do not grow in the same tract. WATER—H. B. L., San Benito, Cal. Samples of water are analyzed free of charge at the University of California. ASPHYXIATE—Subscriber, City. Asphyxiate is pronounced as if written as-ik-si-at, with the i in at as in fate.