

is difficult even for the broadest charity to excuse, much less to justify, his subsequent course in demanding of his constituents public honor by way of vindication, and in alternately presenting himself as a repentant sinner and as a political saint whose social vices were not to be taken into account in determining his fitness for the exercise of legislative duties. No possible political benefits which he could have conferred upon the country could counteract the evil effect of the election of such a man under such circumstances to such a position in the National councils.

A staff correspondent sums up on another page the results of the New York Constitutional Convention. The contrast between this body and that which adopted the present Constitution, and the contrast between the work of the two bodies, are very significant. It is, however, to be said that the present time called for more cautious and conservative action. We need in this State, what it appears to us this body has, on the whole, very well given us, a selection and incorporation in the Constitution, from an immense variety of radical and not always wise suggestions, of that which is wisest and best. In the general distrust of legislative bodies there has been considerable danger that this Convention would usurp the functions of the Legislature and enact laws rather than establish the principles according to which laws should be enacted. On the whole, the Convention has guarded itself fairly well against this peril. The other peril, that of partisanship, has shown itself most clearly in the endeavor to deal with the problem of municipal government and in the reapportionment amendment. Both subjects present very serious difficulties. It certainly is not safe to carry out the principle of "home rule" so radically as to set the people of New York and Brooklyn off in independent communities by themselves; and it may well be doubted whether our experience respecting municipal government is yet sufficient to enable even a wiser body than the present Constitutional Convention to draw permanently the line of demarcation between municipal and State authority. This question is not yet settled by the Convention, but from published indications we suspect that it will act upon the motto, "When you don't know what to do, do nothing." We hope that the Republicans will consent to submit the reapportionment amendment as a separate proposition, and we reserve any final expression of opinion upon that subject, but it is our impression that the principle of majority government ought not to be carried to such an extent as to give to the two cities of New York and Brooklyn one-half the political power over the whole State in the Legislature. The "one man one vote" principle is not the only and final political principle by which all others are to be tested and determined.

The amendment against sectarian control is perhaps as important and far-reaching as any which the Convention has adopted, and it is so important that we give it here in full:

"Sec. 4. Neither the State nor any subdivision thereof shall use its property or credit or any public money, or authorize or permit either to be used, directly or indirectly, in aid or maintenance, other than for examination or inspection, of any school or institution of learning wholly or in part under the control or direction of any religious denomination, or in which any denominational tenet or doctrine is taught."

As our readers know, this subject excited warm debate and developed radical differences of opinion. It appears to us that the final action taken was wise, and that the clause could not be better phrased. To exclude all religious teach-

ings from the schools would be inconsistent with the desires of a great proportion, probably an overwhelming majority, of the parents, and would require, either in the Constitution itself or by the courts afterward, a definition of that vaguest of all terms, "religion." But it is not difficult to determine what is a religious denomination, and not seriously difficult to determine what is a denominational tenet or doctrine; and all of religious truth which is necessary to the development of such a character as promises to make a good citizen is held in common by all denominations, Protestant and Roman Catholic.

The Lexow Committee has again adjourned to give its members the opportunity of attending the State political conventions. Short as their last week's session was, it produced evidence that may be called startling even when compared with the body of proof of corruption in the New York Police Department already before the Committee. The new ground explored was the relations between "headquarters" and the criminal classes. Heretofore the blackmailing and bribery have been traced only to captains and "ward-men," and it has been said that if "headquarters" had more power such things could not occur. But now it has been shown that detectives from "headquarters" have systematically aided pawnbrokers and thieves in fleecing the owners of stolen articles which have been pawned, and that the postal cards sent out from "headquarters" about stolen and pawned goods have systematically informed the owners that they must pay pawnbrokers' charges, all without warrant of law or justice. Much worse even than this is the evidence connecting a "headquarters" detective, Hanley, with the so-called green-goods men—pretended dealers in counterfeit money who swindle avaricious and dishonest persons who believe that they see a chance of safely obtaining and circulating counterfeit money. It was testified to that Detective Hanley systematically "protected" these swindlers, and that they regarded their payments to him as for "protection from headquarters." This evidence was in part corroborated by correspondence which has fallen into Mr. Goff's hands. Here, then, is something which Superintendent Byrnes might look into without leaving his own office. The Police Commissioners have resolved to hold no more trials until the Lexow Committee has finished its investigation. We earnestly hope that after the investigation is over some of the guilty officers may be put on trial before a jury. It is true that there was a failure to convict Captain Devery by a jury, but the McKane case shows that we need not by any means despair of jury trials. And the sending of one guilty captain or inspector to Sing Sing would have a vastly greater effect on the purity of the department than the mere dismissal from the force of twenty.

The monometallist papers continue to make much of the Director of the Mint's report that the production of gold last year was "the greatest in the world's history." One paper in this city devotes nearly five columns to magnifying the importance of this fact. It shows that since the recent African discoveries the advance in the production of gold has been rapid. What it does not show, however, is that the richness of the African ore has steadily declined as the work of mining has been pushed forward. The yield per ton was just one-half as great in 1891 as in 1888, and Suess has shown that the African mines bid fair to be exhausted as quickly as were those of California and Australia. This, however, is not the most important fact. While it is true that the world's production of gold last year (\$153,000,000) was the "greatest in the

world's history," it is also true that it was hardly half a million dollars greater than in 1853. Meanwhile, however, the world's business requiring money has more than doubled. The United States alone to-day has a population nearly as large as Great Britain, France, and America combined had in 1853, while its wealth is even larger. The statistics of gold production, therefore, instead of showing that the world's supply of money is increasing in proportion to the demand, prove the exact opposite, and explain why prices, which remained substantially uniform from 1853 to 1873, have fallen so rapidly during the last two decades.

The Government reports issued last week estimate the wheat crop of the country this year at 412,000,000 bushels as against 400,000,000 a year ago, and the corn crop at 1,100,000,000 bushels as against 1,650,000,000 a year ago. As the price of wheat has fallen and that of corn risen, it is interesting to notice that the value of the entire wheat crop at the New York price is this year \$240,000,000 as against \$290,000,000 last year, and the value of the corn crop is \$700,000,000 as against \$800,000,000 last year. Last year, however, was considered an abnormally bad one. Year before last the wheat crop at the New York price was worth \$400,000,000 and the corn crop \$900,000,000, and the figures for 1892 were about the average for several years preceding. The value of the two crops has thus fallen in the following proportion :

1892.....	\$1,300,000,000
1893.....	1,100,000,000
1894.....	950,000,000

The value of the crops when on the farms would in each case be less ; but the table accurately sets forth the proportion in which the money incomes of most farmers have fallen.

The Governors of Georgia and of Virginia have, in published letters to the New York "World," resented the proposal of an English committee to investigate Southern lynching of the negro. Their letters as published are undignified in tone, and indicate a singular standard of official etiquette in those two States. The Governor of Georgia affirms that "the English papers, to my knowledge, have declined time and again to publish statements made to them in defense of the South by Englishmen who are now residents in the South." This, if true, is a reason for welcoming an investigation which would carry with it an opportunity to make official and authoritative statements to the people of England, and, for that matter, of the civilized world. The refusal of such an investigating committee to give to the public fully and completely any statement either of principles or of facts made in defense of the South would itself condemn the investigation. We may add that both these Governors appear to us to be living years, not to say centuries, behind their age. International public opinion is one of the prime elements in modern civilization. It put an end to the atrocities of the Bourbon rule in Italy; it has modified the anti-socialistic and repressive legislation in Germany; it is exerting a cognizable influence upon corrupting influences at work under the English Government in India; it is beginning to have some effect on the horrible atrocities perpetrated by the Russian Government in Siberia; it is stirring philanthropy and religion to deal with the problems of the "submerged tenth" in London; and it is little short of absurd for the Governors of Virginia and Georgia to suppose that a Chinese wall can be built about the Southern States so high and so thick that crime perpetrated behind that wall can be kept concealed from the observation of

Christendom and the condemnation of a universal and enlightened conscience.

The survey of parts of Alaska, which has just been completed, will lead to the settlement of the ownership of certain portions of that country the possession of which is now in dispute between Great Britain and the United States. The doubt about the frontier limits has mainly arisen from the very curious wording of the treaty of 1825 between Russia and Great Britain. Of course the United States owns only what Russia owned at the time of our treaty with Russia. The treaty of 1825 laid down certain boundaries in a very indefinite way, by reference to mountain ranges lying parallel to the coast, and with a provision that when these mountains were found to lie more than ten miles from the coast, the boundary should be a line winding along parallel with the coast and at ten miles' distance from it. It now seems that in some places there is nothing that can be called a mountain range lying parallel to the coast, and that the coast-line itself is uncertain, owing to the existence of many islands separated only by a short distance from the shore. Surveying parties from Great Britain and this country have been amicably at work for some time, and as soon as the result of their labors is completed the diplomats can begin their arguments. To the popular mind perhaps the most interesting result of those surveys is the discovery that Mount St. Elias, which has so long been considered the highest mountain on the continent, is surpassed in height by two or three other mountains not very far from it. The height of Mount St. Elias has, however, been found to be greater than was supposed; it is 18,023 feet, while a few miles inland lies Mount Lugan, with a height of 19,534 feet. It will perhaps be a blow to the National pride of some geographers to learn also that both Mount St. Elias and the newly discovered and higher peaks are undoubtedly in British territory.

The census bulletin giving for the entire country the results of the investigation of the farm and home proprietorships is an important document. Its estimates are not likely to be impeached on any side, as the investigation was intrusted to remarkably competent hands, and the results reached confirm and make definite the impressions formed from common observation. In the agricultural districts two families out of three own their farms, though nearly one-third of these owners are burdened with mortgages. Among the non-agriculturist population, however, only one-third of the families own their homes, while two-thirds are tenants. The larger the city, the greater the proportionate number of tenants. In New York City only six families in a hundred own their homes. No other city, however, approaches this bad eminence. In Boston, which ranks second in the proportion of tenants, there are eighteen home-owners out of every hundred families. The fact that the drift of population is from the country to the cities, and from the smaller cities to the larger ones, makes the effect of the bulletin somewhat depressing, for no one can contemplate with satisfaction the prospect of tenantry increasing and home ownership diminishing. No doubt the situation is serious, but it is encouraging to reflect that the chief reason for the small proportion of home-owners in the great cities is the large proportion of immigrants. Outside of the great cities a majority of American families are still home-owners.

GENERAL NEWS.—The quarrels between the cattlemen and sheep-herders in western Colorado culminated last