

terrible to the sort nurtured in the superstition of the romantic, the bizarre, the heroic, the distinguished, as the things alone worthy of painting or carving or writing. The arts must become democratic, and then we shall have the expression of America in art; and one reproach which Mr. Arnold is half right in making us shall have no justice in it. The implication of his censure was not so much that we had no literature or no art, as that we had nothing that was strictly American in either; but even in this he seems to have been speaking without the documents. Here and there a man has detached himself from tradition, and has struck something out of our life that is ours and no other's. Of late this has been done more and more in our fiction, which, if we were to come to those odious comparisons, we need not be afraid to parallel book for book with contemporary English fiction; and no one can look at Mr. St. Gaudens's head of Sherman in the Academy and fail to see how possible the like achievement is in sculpture—at least to a St. Gaudens. It has no distinction, in Mr. Arnold's sense, no more distinction than he would have found in the great soldier's actual presence, but it seems to express the grandeur of a whole people, a free people, friendly, easy, frank, and very valiant.

VI.

There is a lovely prose poem of Tourguénief's, telling how he went into a

church when a boy, and knelt down beside a peasant. Suddenly it rushed into the boy's mind that this man was Jesus Christ, and for a while he could not look round at his companion for awe of his own hallucination; when he did so, there was only the plain, common man. Then it was borne in upon him that Christ was really like that poor peasant when he was on earth, and only a plain, common man. There is, indeed, no evidence that the founder of our religion struck his contemporaries as "distinguished," and there is considerable proof in the record of his doings and sayings that he would hardly have valued distinction in others.

We need not at least impute it to ourselves as a serious moral shortcoming if we are without it, and we may find some consolation in the fact that we have in a measure realized the Christian in the democratic ideal. There is something sweet, something luminous, in the reflection that apparently there is in the ordinary American the making of the extraordinary American; that the mass of our people were so near to such great men as Grant and Lincoln in sympathy and intelligence that they could not be awed from them to the distance that lends distinction. It was the humane and beneficent effect of such grandeur as theirs that it did not seem distinguished, but so natural that it was like the fulfilment of the average potentiality.

Monthly Record of Current Events.

POLITICAL.

OUR Record is closed on the 14th of May. —The most important transactions of Congress during the month were as follows: Resolution upon the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase United States bonds with a surplus in the Treasury, passed, House, April 16th; bill to provide for the admission of the State of Dakota into the Union and for the organization of the Territory of Lincoln, passed, Senate, April 19th; River and Harbor Bill, passed, House, May 7th; Chinese treaty (amended) ratified, Senate, May 7th; Chace International Copyright Bill, passed, Senate, May 9th; new treaty with Peru ratified, Senate, May 10th.

Up to April 20th, the one-hundredth day of the first session of the Fiftieth Congress, the total number of bills and resolutions introduced in the Senate and House was 12,568;

bills passed by House, 425; by Senate, 831. Bills sent by House to the President for his approval, 185; by Senate, 24.

April 30th, the nomination of Melville Weston Fuller, of Illinois, as Chief-Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was sent to the Senate, and, May 9th, of Robert B. Roosevelt, of New York, as Minister to the Netherlands.

April 17th, Francis T. Nicholls, the Democratic candidate, was elected Governor of Louisiana by 85,786 majority.

The following bills were passed by the New York Legislature: Crosby High License, Senate, April 26th (vetoed by Governor Hill May 9th); Ballot Reform, Assembly, May 3d, Senate, May 10th; to provide for the execution of murderers by electricity, Senate, May 8th.

In the House of Commons the bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister was passed April 18th; Local Government

Bill, read a second time without division, April 20th; Irish County Government Bill defeated, April 25th; Irish Land Commission Bill passed, on its second reading, April 30th.

April 18th, the Pope confirmed the declaration of the Supreme Congregation of the Holy Roman and Universal Inquisition condemning the use of means known as "the plan of campaign" and "boycotting" in the contests between landlords and tenants in Ireland. A circular embodying this decision was addressed to the Irish bishops April 20th.

The Panama Lottery Loan Bill was passed by the French Chamber of Deputies April 28th.

The new Dutch Ministry is as follows: Interior, Baron Mackay; Justice, M. Ruys van Beerenbroek; Finance, M. Godin de Beaufort; Foreign Affairs, M. Hartsen; Colonies, M. Keuchenius; War, Colonel Bergansius; Marine, M. Schimmelpenninck; Commerce, M. Havelaar.

The bill to abolish slavery in Brazil was approved by the Regent May 13th.

DISASTERS.

April 16th.—Advices from Calcutta reported the death of over one hundred persons and injuries to over one thousand in a recent tornado at Dacca.—News in London of the sinking of the steamer *Vena* in a collision with the steamer *Biela* off Deal. Ten of the crew lost.

April 19th.—Twenty-two persons killed by an explosion in a colliery at Workington, England.

April 29th.—The ship *Smyrna* sunk in a collision with the steamer *Moto* off the Isle of Wight. Thirteen persons drowned.

May 7th.—Advices from India announced the death of about one hundred and fifty persons in hail-storms at Delhi and Moradabad.

OBITUARY.

April 17th.—In Brooklyn, Ephraim George Squier, the archaeologist, aged sixty-six years.

April 18th.—In New York, Dr. Cornelius Rea Agnew, aged fifty-seven years.—In New York, John R. G. Hassard, aged fifty-one years.

April 19th.—In Baltimore, A. S. Abell, founder of the Baltimore *Sun*, aged eighty-one years.

April 20th.—In New York, William B. Dinsmore, President of the Adams Express Company, aged seventy-seven years.

April 21st.—In Boston, Brigadier-General William Dwight, aged fifty-six years.—In Ottawa, Thomas White, Canadian Minister of the Interior, aged fifty-eight years.

April 22d.—In New Brunswick, New Jersey, Rear-Admiral Charles Stewart Boggs, aged seventy-seven years.

April 26th.—In New York, Mrs. Clemence S. H. Lozier, M.D., aged seventy-four years.

May 2d.—In Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, John Henry Hobart Brown, Bishop of the Fond du Lac Diocese, aged fifty-six years.

May 3d.—In Ann Arbor, Michigan, Professor Edward S. Dunster, aged fifty-four years.

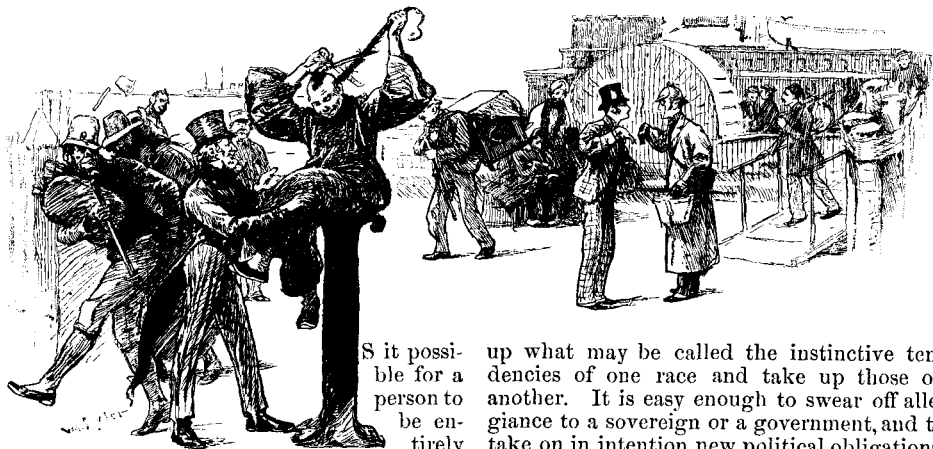
May 6th.—In Amherst, Massachusetts, Laurens Perseus Hickok, ex-President of Union College, aged eighty-nine years.

May 8th.—In London, Professor Leone Levi, aged sixty-six years.—Announcement of the death, April 14th, in Valencia, Spain, of Joseph S. Alemany, late Archbishop of San Francisco, aged seventy-four years.

May 12th.—In Toronto, Canada, John Joseph Lynch, Archbishop of Toronto, aged seventy-two years.

May 13th.—In Portsmouth, England, Vice-Admiral Sir William Nathan Wrighte Hewett, aged fifty-four years.

Editor's Drawer.



Is it possible for a person to be entirely naturalized?—that is, to be denationalized, to cast off the prejudice and traditions of one country and take up those of another, to give

up what may be called the instinctive tendencies of one race and take up those of another. It is easy enough to swear off allegiance to a sovereign or a government, and to take on in intention new political obligations, but to separate one's self from the sympathies into which he was born is quite another affair. One is likely to remain in the inmost