

The circular accompanying it stated that—"During the year 1894 we expect to spend one million dollars, directly or indirectly, in advertising and building up our business in the United States and Canada, and, naturally, we are going to place it where it will do us the most good. . . . If some well-known man like yourself should draw \$75,000, \$10,000, or even \$5,000, it would be the means of selling thousands of tickets in your part of the country." Of course such a circular indicates that the firm sending it out—"Silas L. Carr & Co., Kansas City, Kansas"—is a company of swindlers. Even this company, however, by carefully using the express companies instead of the mail, is able without breaking National laws to conduct its fraudulent business in the parts of the country where its character is not known.

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The New York Senate has, with but one dissenting vote, appointed a committee to reinvestigate the charges against Mr. Brockway and the management of the Elmira Reformatory. This is right. The investigation already made, while nominally conducted by the State Board of Charities, was really conducted by a single member of that Board, Mr. Edward H. Litchfield. Mr. Litchfield bears a high reputation; but so has Mr. Brockway borne a high reputation. And it is not in accordance with Anglo-Saxon ideas of justice to allow any man to be tried and convicted by one man, however excellent he may be. The reinvestigation was demanded by the Board of Managers of the Reformatory, who are also men of eminence, and who have preferred severe charges against the methods and spirit in which the investigation of Mr. Brockway's administration has been conducted. The public will do well to hold its judgment in suspense until this reinvestigation is concluded. It is reported that Governor Flower will himself suspend action, as in our judgment he ought to do. What the New York "Sun" says in a careful and judicial editorial is unquestionably true:

"He [Mr. Brockway] has directed the Elmira Reformatory under a Board of Managers of humane men of the highest standing and the best reputation, whose only concern is the usefulness of the institution. Ever since its establishment it has received the constant and studious examination of philanthropists and prison officers from all parts of the Union and from foreign countries; and those whose information as to it is most thorough are loudest in its praise. For seventeen years it has been under the careful inspection of the State Board of Charities without its management provoking any criticism from them. The appearance of the convict inmates has always struck visitors as differing remarkably and favorably from that of the prison population generally. The Elmira convicts are brighter, more cheerful, more intelligent, and more self-respecting."

We may add that the Executive Committee of the Prison Reform Association, a committee of experts, has, since 1879, carefully studied the workings of the Institution, examining many of the men discharged from it, and as a result bears testimony to the excellence of its work. And this testimony is further confirmed by the fact that the proportion of reform under Mr. Brockway's administration has been more than two-thirds greater than that in most American prisons. Such a man should not be removed from office, nor condemned by the public, on the judgment of a single person, nor upon an investigation conducted by a single person, however excellent and eminent.

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There has been a good deal of newspaper discussion over the proposed amendments to the libel law of this State, and some of them have been based on curiously inaccurate reports of the changes proposed in the law. The bill, as it has passed the Assembly to a third reading, simply provides: (1) That no action can be maintained for a fair and true report of any judicial, legislative, or other

public or official proceeding—which, but for the ambiguity of the word "public," is eminently just and right; and (2) that the defendant may always show, in mitigation of damages, that he has promptly published a retraction, and that the original publication was made in good faith and without malice—which is also legitimate. But there are two clauses in the second section of this bill which seem to us indefensible: one a clause allowing a defendant to show that the plaintiff has recovered damages from other defendants for the publication of the same libel; and the other that "if the jury is satisfied that the publication was made in good faith and without malice, then no punitive or exemplary damages shall be allowed." The fact that one man has been made to pay damages for his wrong-doing is no reason why another culprit should not pay for a similar wrong-doing—rather a reason why he should; and if the clause which we have quoted were adopted, one important and needed restraint on the press would be taken away—needed, because the vice of the American press is not malice, but reckless carelessness, and a willingness to secure a sale by sensational publication of reports without inquiry into their truth. We would far prefer to provide that, in any case of libelous matter, malice shall be presumed and exemplary damages may be given unless the defendant shall prove to the satisfaction of the jury that all reasonable precautions were taken to ascertain the truth of the rumor before publishing it. But we judge, from the imperfect reports furnished by the daily press, that these objectionable clauses have been stricken from the bill on its final passage.

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A treaty has been negotiated with China which provides all that the anti-Chinese sentiment of this country has desired, but provides for securing it in an honorable and legitimate way. The treaty recites that the Government of China, in view of the sentiment in the United States, "desires to prohibit the emigration of such [Chinese] laborers from China to the United States." For the purpose of securing this end it is agreed that such emigration shall be absolutely prohibited, except that any registered Chinese laborer who has a lawful wife, child, or parent in the United States, or property to the value of one thousand dollars, may return, provided that before leaving the United States he deposits a description of his family or property with the Collector of Customs and receives from him an immigration certificate. The treaty further excepts officials, teachers, students, merchants, and travelers for curiosity or pleasure, who may enter the United States provided they bring a certificate from their Government; and it further provides for the protection of such Chinese as are, under the terms of this law, residing in this country. It also permits China to enact laws relative to American citizens residing in China analogous to those permitted to be enacted by the United States respecting Chinese residents in this country. This treaty, negotiated by Secretary Gresham, is said to be opposed by certain Senators because it will have the effect to abrogate the Geary Law. Exception is taken to allowing a Chinaman to return to this country if he once leaves it. With this exception, the objection to the law appears to be that it secures in a courteous and honorable way, and with the assent of China, what by our previous legislation we have attempted to secure in a discourteous and dishonorable way without her consent.

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The news regarding the Mosquito-Nicaragua trouble that has reached this country the past week has been both confused and conflicting. In a few days Admiral Benham, in the San Francisco, will reach Bluefields, and we may

then hope to have something like an intelligible account of the situation. It is certain that the Nicaraguans invaded this territory belonging to the Mosquito Indians with total disregard of the rights of the local government, as guaranteed by the Manigua treaty, signed by Nicaragua in 1860. The American residents in Bluefields seem generally to have opposed the Nicaraguan invasion and to have approved the act of the British ships in landing troops to preserve order, although our Consul denies that, as reported, he joined in a request for the landing of troops. A temporary settlement is then reported to have been made by which the Nicaraguan troops were to withdraw and the British vessels were to take away in safety the Mosquito chief who had been driven out of power. But immediately after the departure of the British ships the Nicaraguan Commissioner returned with thirty armed men, in violation of the agreement. This led to a report that Nicaragua had ceded Corn Island to Great Britain in return for the withdrawal of the ships. This report has been emphatically denied by Commissioner Lacayo, who asserts that Nicaragua had already refused an unofficial offer of a million dollars from the United States for the lease of the island for ninety-nine years, but that his Government would probably consent to allow the United States to use Corn Island as a coaling station. At the last accounts from Bluefields the native police were keeping order, the thirty Nicaraguans were voluntarily keeping indoors, the Americans were preserving an attitude of neutrality, and the British vessels had left the place. It is said that an American named Wilson has been shot, by the orders of the Nicaraguan Governor of Rama (a nephew of Commissioner Lacayo), but no comprehensible account of the circumstances has been given. A committee bearing an appeal from American residents at Bluefields for the protection of their interests is said to be on its way to Washington. It is not at all likely that our Government will interfere in the quarrels between Nicaragua and the Mosquito Indians. A single war-vessel at Bluefields can easily protect American property and lives. The real point of interest lies in the question whether Great Britain is or is not using these troubles to obtain a territorial foothold in the vicinity of the entrance to the proposed Nicaragua Canal. So far there has been no positive evidence of such an intention. The cession of Corn Island would certainly look in that direction, but the weight of evidence is that no such cession has been made or is desired.

The bigotry of unbelief is as intolerable as any other bigotry. In France this truth has just been officially recognized. The Mayor of St. Denis had refused to allow a cross to be placed on a grave in his cemetery. Appeal was taken to the Minister of Public Worship. This office is filled by M. Spüller, once a bitter anti-clericist, but now, it seems, a man of eminent good sense and moderation. He declared squarely that it was the policy of the French Government to be tolerant and to repress acts of intolerance and fanaticism wherever found. Such an act, he considered, was this refusal to allow the symbol of a religion to be placed upon a grave. The Radicals in the Chamber of Deputies, through M. Brisson, at once attacked the Government, but the Chamber sustained M. Spüller by a vote of 280 to 120. The discussion in the Chamber was important as showing the growing and constant strength of the Moderate Republicans. They held their ground firmly, and altogether out-reasoned and out-voted the Radicals under Brisson and Clemenceau, who would not distinguish, in their hostility, between clericalism and religion. By the Government's declared intention, in this debate, to

pursue a moderate and conciliatory course toward the Church, France replies courteously and justly to Leo XIII.'s recent injunction to French Catholics to accept the Republic unreservedly and to make themselves good citizens. There is every reason now to hope for relations between State and Church which shall be mutually tolerant, and which shall leave every citizen free to worship as he chooses so long as he does not interfere with his neighbor's liberty of thought and belief. If this new attitude of tolerance is taken undue advantage of by extreme churchmen to work injury to the Republic or to foster political intrigue, they will have only themselves to thank if they lose by such abuse the liberty they have now gained.

Like the recent death of Sir Samuel Baker, the tragically sudden passing away of Verney Lovett Cameron removes a practical civilizer of Africa who can ill be spared. His fall in the hunting-field recalls a similar accident which ended the life of another African traveler, Captain Speke; and it is singular that these men, after having overcome multitudinous and terrible dangers in a savage land, should meet their fate in this way at home. Commander Cameron's connection with explorations in the Dark Continent dates from the meeting in 1871 at Ujiji between Livingstone and Stanley. Shamed by this event into realizing their neglect of Livingstone, the English people, through the Royal Geographical Society, organized a search and relief force, and Commander Cameron, whose early cruises along the east coast of Africa had filled him with zeal to undertake some work in aid of one who was battling slavery, was given the leadership. When Livingstone's death nullified further prosecution of the original purpose, Cameron brought the body back from Unyamwebe to be buried with distinguished honors in Westminster Abbey, and then headed another expedition to carry on the incomplete explorations. In this journey the intrepid pioneer traveled nearly five thousand miles on foot, and was the first European ever to cross equatorial Africa from ocean to ocean. He discovered that the chain of rivers and lakes which the great missionary had made known to the world was part and parcel of the Congo system, and he showed his countrymen that the true way to civilize this great and naturally favored region was by chartered companies and the speedy construction of railways and steamers. He then returned to the navy and served until 1878, when he undertook an overland journey to demonstrate the feasibility of building a railway from some Mediterranean port to India without following the course of the river Euphrates. Four years later he explored the "Hinterland" of the African Gold Coast Colony. From all these expeditions valuable results have come, but the greatest is the vigor with which he has energized the suppression of slave-trading in Africa.

GENERAL NEWS.—The Hon. Charles F. Crisp, Speaker of the House of Representatives, was last week appointed by Governor Northen, of Georgia, to succeed the late Senator Colquitt; Mr. Crisp declined, on the ground that his party had a right to his services in the position he holds at present, and Governor Northen has appointed instead Mr. Patrick Walsh, editor and owner of the Augusta "Chronicle."—Augustus A. Brush, ex-Warden of Sing Sing Prison, died at Hopewell, N. Y., on Friday of last week, at the age of sixty-two.—The Rev. Sylvester Malone (R.C.), of Brooklyn, has been selected to succeed the late Bishop McNierney on the New York State Board of Regents; the selection gives satisfaction to friends of education generally, as Mr. Malone has been heartily in sympathy with