

We believe that the people of New York State will be quick to comprehend the value to them of the present opportunity, for no matters touch their lives and homes with greater directness than those of education. The action which we recommend is clearly for the advantage of their children. So far from giving to the Superintendent the power he seeks over all the educational system of New York State, let that system be unified indeed, but with the non-partisan Regents to guard its immunity from politics. It can hardly be hoped that the dominant party in the Legislature will be easily persuaded to relinquish the power of appointing the incumbent of any office with political possibilities. Only the Constitutional Convention can act; and if an earnest effort be made by good men, it will be led to act in the right direction.

The "Yale Review" for August publishes a much-needed reply to the statements made in the "Class Book" of the class of '94 respecting the expenses of students at New Haven. These statements were, briefly, that while one-third of the graduating class had spent less than \$400 a year, yet the average expenditure for the class had been \$1,132 a year. The editor of the "Class Book," in commenting upon these figures, said:

"It is a recognized fact that, slowly but surely, it is getting harder and harder for a poor man to get through Yale. And whether this is just so for Yale alone, that she is gradually giving up her name for being the 'poor man's college,' or whether it is that life is growing more complex, and that the price of a collegiate education has risen proportionately at all other institutions, is a question that we are not fully prepared to answer. That Yale is by degrees giving up some of her boasted 'democracy,' and that it is getting harder for a poor fellow to 'get his dues' than it once was, is certain."

The New York "Evening Post," in an admirable editorial upon these returns, pointed out that the college fees at Yale had increased from \$60 a year to \$155 in the last forty years, and that "ordinary annual expenditures," as stated in the catalogue, had risen in a like ratio, and asked whether the time was passing by when impartial observers could say, with Mr. Bryce, that "it is the glory of American universities, as of those of Scotland and Germany, to be freely accessible to all classes of the people." The editors of the "Yale Review" contend that the impression that has gone out concerning their college is an absolutely erroneous one. Twenty years ago, they urge, the catalogue estimate of ordinary annual expenses was practically as great as it is to-day, and, furthermore, the average expense returned by the class of 1894 was actually less than that returned by the class of 1874. This answer is not so conclusive as might be desired, especially as the class averages fluctuate so considerably that thoroughly reliable statistics either for or against an increase in expenditures can hardly be based upon them. More convincing is the argument put forward that the very increase in the attendance of rich men's sons has made it possible for students of "brains and industry" to support themselves entirely by tutoring. As far as the rank and file of students are concerned, however, the change in all of our Eastern colleges would seem to be in the direction of increased costliness. Even great endowments seem never to lead to the lowering of college fees, and often to be followed by an increase. This tendency, however, does not manifest itself in the West, where in most of the State universities, and in many others, tuition fees are now practically nil. This holds true as far east as Ohio, where the State University has abolished fees altogether. One of the trustees of Kansas State University (at which board and room are to be had for \$12 a month, and the college fees are \$5 a year) tells us that the average expendi-

ture of the students does not exceed \$200 a year. Apparently, then, west of the Alleghanies a college education is to-day even more "accessible to all classes of the people" than it was in New England a generation ago. Possibly the increasing sentiment in favor of free education may some day lead Eastern benefactors to follow the example of Senator Stanford, and stipulate that their endowments shall be used in widening the opportunities for a higher education, as much as in increasing the facilities open to those able to partially pay for them.

The action of the House of Lords in throwing out the Evicted Tenants Bill by a vote of 219 to 40 is, in effect, a challenge to the Liberal party to go before the country on the issue. Lord Salisbury very properly waived aside the expressed or implied threats against the existence of the Upper House, truly, though tritely, asserting that it made no difference as to the Lords' duty whether their action were likely to lengthen or abbreviate their existence, and jauntily setting the date of their fall as a legislative body "a few months before that of the Commons." This is all very well, but it does not go to the merits of the question. The land-purchase legislation already enacted absolutely throws aside the theory of the inviolability of the right of private contract when large public interests and pressing necessity are involved. It is now too late for Great Britain to go back and decide that question anew. The clause of the Evicted Tenants Bill just defeated, providing for compulsory reinstatement, is of the very last practical importance, as has been shown by the failure of the attempt of the act of 1891 to promote voluntary agreements between dispossessed tenants and their landlords. In opposing this provision, therefore, the Duke of Devonshire and his Unionist followers really left no room for the compromise they professed to desire. The real question to go before the country will be whether the attempt to give permanent relief to bitter and undeserved distress can be carried out by the only practical and reasonable method, or whether all action is to be blocked by the ancient feudal views of the sanctity of land tenure. The Lords doubtless believe that the people of England will sustain their position; the Liberals are ready to take up the issue, and to test the question as to the supremacy between the landlords and the people. As Lord Rosebery said in the debate, "There is much in the air which ought to make the House of Lords walk warily." Meanwhile, the distress of the evicted tenants to whom the bill would apply is real and urgent. They were evicted for inability to pay rents which have since been reduced by law; in most cases they offered to pay what has since been admitted to be a fair rent, and they very generally petitioned before eviction to have their rents fixed by arbitration. Many of them, with their families, face the coming winter with neither shelter nor means of support. What does the theory of absolutism in land tenure have to offer as a solution of such a position?

By far the most interesting report last week concerning the war in Korea was that the King of that country had officially intimated his severance of all connection with China, and that his subjects had already been found fighting their ex-suzerains side by side with the Japanese. It is understood that the rebellion in Korea is by no means over, and that both sides have been making overtures to the Japanese, thus inuring to the profit of the latter. In consequence both of the rebellion and of the conscription, provisions and labor have become dear, the phenomenal sum of eighty cents being paid for a day's work, and coolies

being scarce at that. The legations at Seoul of all the foreign powers are now protected by armed forces from the fleet in Chemulpo Harbor. Definite information has at last come regarding the third battle in the war, that at Seikan. On either side a thousand men were engaged, and there was much slaughter. The Japanese eventually drove off the Chinese and captured the town. A battle has been fought at Asan, but the issue is not known. The Japanese fleet has reappeared in the Gulf of Pechili, and their torpedo-boats have been reconnoitering the fortifications at Wei Hai Wei, which the Chinese claim are impregnable. Both China and Japan are suppressing all news unfavorable to their respective armies, the latter power actually prohibiting newspaper editors from printing any but Government-given intelligence, under penalty of one year's imprisonment. Chinese preparations now seem to have taken on something of Japanese energy. Large forces are hastily advancing through Manchuria to the Korean frontier, and all of the defenses, especially those at Shan Kai, where the Great Wall meets the sea, have been materially strengthened. The Viceroys have put forth various exciting proclamations, that of the Governor of Formosa being a reward of a hundred taels (about \$125) for the head of a Japanese private, two hundred for the head of a Japanese officer, four thousand for the capture of a small war-ship, and six thousand for a large one. The anti-foreign feeling in China has become so strong that many of the Englishmen employed in the arsenals have left. They have been repeatedly insulted and fired on by the natives, but in each case have been rescued by Chinese officers. The Berlin "Post" says that a loan of \$5,000,000 has been undertaken on the security of the Chinese maritime dues, and that further amounts will probably follow. While, even for a small sum, China goes to foreign bankers, the Japanese Legation at Washington announce that their Government has resolved to issue a domestic loan of \$50,000,000. This contrast is significant.

During the past months the heart of Africa has been the scene of alternate triumphs and rebuffs for the great colonizing powers. At first we hear of German explorations involving a consequent sphere of influence, next of English treaties securing even vaster tracts, next of a part of the Mahdist Soudan conquered by Italian armies, and now comes the news of the French Major Monteil and his Senegalese soldiers' victories along the upper waters of the Ubanghi River, the largest of the Congo tributaries. This warlike success has been, of course, followed by that of French diplomacy, for the moment, at any rate, in obtaining favors from the Congo Free State. Leopold II.'s supposed treaty with England, conceding to that power some important territory, seems to be a *château en Espagne*, viewed in the light of this latest intelligence, which is that France has now concluded a treaty with the Congo State providing that French territory shall extend to the Nile and Congo basins, and that the Ubanghi is to be the dividing-line between the French and Belgian Congo territories. It is not yet clear whether it includes all of the Bahr-el-Ghazal lands, but if it should, M. Hanotaux will have had a notable triumph, and French soldiers may actually appear in authority at Lado and Wad-elai, though such a check to England would be wonderful indeed. In addition to the arguments from force and diplomacy, King Leopold is in need of money; the Congo deficit this year amounts to half a million dollars, and France is rich, besides having a more or less undisputed lien on the country in question. The root of the whole difficulty, however, lies with the map-maker. The Ubanghi was long

ago, as now, accepted as the line of division, but when the Mbomu River was discovered, flowing in from the northeast, its great size deceived the Belgians into thinking that it was really the Ubanghi, and hence they deprived France of Der-Banda and Niam-Niam, the regions south of it. Of course the French claimed that the Mbomu was merely a tributary, and have now, apparently, carried their point. This victory, following closely on the occupation of Timbuctoo, will do much to establish Gallic prestige in central and especially in western Africa, for the French Congo State is small compared with the French Soudan and the French sphere of influence there, a region extending from Lake Tchad to Cape Juby. Across this vast desert the indomitable Gauls are now about to project their great trans-Saharan Railway.

Iceland is the latest country to clamor for home rule, and the recent emigration of many of its inhabitants to Manitoba draws special attention to that interesting island. Its emigrants depart under protest, for, strange as it seems, few peoples have greater love of native land. Existing conditions, however, even under the liberal Constitution of 1874, have become intolerable, and amendments are urgently demanded. It is asked that the Icelanders shall henceforth control their own finances instead of being under the domination of Denmark, and that a bank of issue shall be established. Secondly, there must be greater economy in the management of local affairs. At present there is a civil officer for every 120 inhabitants. The number of judiciary servants, too, is out of proportion, since, at the time of the last census, only six persons in all Iceland were found to be under detention for crime. Thirdly, and most important of all, so it seems to us, a thorough transformation of the conditions repressing international trade is justly demanded. It may not be known that Icelandic exports (chiefly fish, sheep, wool, salted mutton, and ponies) may be taken only in Danish ships, all other vessels paying an exorbitant duty. Pierre Loti's exquisite "*Pêcheur d'Islande*" has made us familiar with the French methods of getting around this difficulty, so far as the fish market is concerned. The Icelanders, therefore, are right in requesting that the same privilege be granted them to define regulations at ports of entry as is conceded by Great Britain to Canada. There is no reason why the island itself should not be properly developed. Its carbonized lignite is a better fuel than Irish peat; yet the Danish Government has not given more aid in its mining than in the reclaiming of the vast morasses, for out of Iceland's forty thousand square miles there are only two hundred plowed acres! As the Althing, which sits every other year, is under the thumb of the Rigsdag at Copenhagen, it is proposed that henceforth Iceland's only allegiance shall be to the Danish King, whose representative shall continue to be a Governor-General.

According to a recent statistical paper of M. Yves Guyot, reported by the "Speaker," peasant proprietorship in France and elsewhere has fallen of late years into disfavor among land reformers, while at the same time in France it is actually increasing. In that country, as in England and the United States, there is a considerable tide of movement toward the towns, but it mainly affects the day-laborers. Of the rural population of France, nearly sixty per cent. are cultivating owners, and thirty-five per cent. are said to devote their entire labor to their own ownings. Another noticeable tendency is the increase of the small holdings over the larger properties. Every traveler has noticed, as of course has every student of France, the minute subdivisions into which land is divided in that country.