

of his limitless faith in himself, and of the crowd of schemers by whom he was surrounded. The great career went out in a deep shadow, and its lessons are so obvious that they do not need to be formulated. Whatever criticism may be passed upon De Lesseps, it is certain that he did not share in the profits or the thefts at Panama, and the world will choose to remember his great achievement at Suez as being typical of the energy and genius of the man, rather than the terrible disaster at Panama, of which he was in a sense the victim.

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The opening of the magnificent new Reichstag building in Berlin, on Wednesday of last week, was the occasion of one of those imperial pageants which still mean something in Germany because in that country imperialism is a vital force, and in which the Emperor William apparently rejoices because they express his conception of the function of the Emperor in modern times. Through the medium of many addresses and speeches, he has made it clear to the world that he regards himself both as the master and the servant of Germany. Not since the Middle Ages has any German ruler held apparently a more absolute theory of the power of the ruler, nor has any one, even among the hard-working Prussian kings and emperors, held himself to a more exacting discipline of labor and service. Whatever may be his defects and limitations, these things must be said of him. His address at the occasion of the opening of the new Reichstag was in line with all his recent utterances. It was a combination of democratic, not to say Socialistic, sympathies, with a declaration of autocratic power. The noblest task of the State, said the Emperor, is to protect the weaker classes of society, and to aid them to higher economic and moral development; and the duty of the State is to smooth away difficulties and to preserve an increased content and solidarity, but this must be done by the State and not by the people. In the same speech the Emperor declares that the existing laws are not sufficient to preserve the order of the country, and that a new bill (by which he means the Anti-Socialist Bill) will shortly be introduced, whose main provisions will be the extension of the criminal laws. Thus, as in his earlier speeches, Socialistic tendencies and autocratic methods go hand in hand. The new bill will be awaited with a good deal of interest. That it will be drastic, the resignation of Von Caprivi is sufficient assurance; and it will be a singular feature of the new bill that it will provide, among other things, for the payment of damages to persons who have been convicted of and sentenced for offenses of which they were innocent. This reads like a declaration that the new law will have strong hands and a free course to seize whom it chooses, but that if it seizes the wrong person the victim will be paid for his sufferings.

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The Outlook has reported the widespread popular agitation in Austria looking to the establishment of universal suffrage in that country, and it has also reported the rapid growth of Socialistic clubs throughout the Empire. Those who know most about the situation declare that it grows more critical every day, and that it is impossible to predict what may happen when the Emperor Francis Joseph, who is universally beloved, passes away. Meanwhile, Prince Windischgrätz, the Austrian Prime Minister, has apparently planted himself in definite and final antagonism to the electoral reform movement. He declared that in the event of an agreement which should be accepted by the delegates of the coalition parties, based upon the Austrian principle of the division of electors into social strata, the Government would accept it, but that universal suffrage

was inadmissible. The Lower Chamber in Austria is made up of deputies sent there by the great landed proprietors, by Chambers of Commerce, by towns, and by rural corporations; and The Outlook called attention a while ago to the fact that in the present Chamber there are but two representatives of the working classes. The Prime Minister now proposes to admit representatives of the working classes, who shall be elected by their corporations. This is a concession, but it maintains intact the old Austrian system of classes and corporations, which dates back to the Middle Ages. It is very improbable that the popular movement which has already gained such headway in that country can be arrested by a concession which is simply a modification of method and not a change of principle. What the working people want is the bringing Austria into line with the general political constitution of western Europe. At present its organization belongs to the Middle Ages.

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The Italian Parliament has just met. The Government has long been struggling with the ever-increasing perplexities of the financial situation; for the deficit steadily grows, and the attempts to remedy the evil, not by reducing the expenditure, but by increasing the income, have so far lamentably failed. At the very moment when the Ministry needs the confidence and co-operation of the whole country in an unusual degree, it is doing much to destroy that confidence and to alienate support by enforcement of the new drastic laws, nominally aimed at Anarchism, but really used to limit and harass popular agitation and constitutional discussion. When these laws were adopted, The Outlook commented on the probable reaction which would follow in attempting to put them into operation. It is always unsafe to trust any body of men with the power not only of characterizing the actions of their political opponents as treasonable, but of putting their own interpretation on the opinions of those opponents, and holding them responsible for these interpretations. That is what is now happening in Italy, where Republicans and Socialists are being treated as if they were public enemies, and identified with the Anarchists and Revolutionists who made so much trouble a year ago. Several Deputies have already been compelled to seek refuge in Switzerland. The effort to suppress all organizations of alleged Socialistic tendencies has been answered by the organization of a League for the Defense of Liberty, which has its headquarters at Milan, and which is rapidly ramifying throughout the entire kingdom. The League does not propose action, but is an emphatic and powerful protest against a practical suspension of constitutional rights. Italy is now attempting to escape bankruptcy without retrenchment, and to escape revolution by suppressing free discussion. Both of these experiments have been tried many times, and with but one result.

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John Burns, the organizer of the London dock strike, and the present leader of the labor wing of the Liberal party in the London County Council and the English Parliament, received a heartier public reception during his short stay in this city last week than has in late years been accorded to any other English visitor. On Monday evening there was a great mass-meeting in his honor at Cooper Union, and on Tuesday evening a largely attended dinner at one of the labor halls. At both meetings the burden of his speech was the impossibility of social redemption through each man working for himself, and the necessity of union in the labor ranks. At the dinner he attacked as injurious and immoral the lesson inculcated in American text-books—

"From the log hut to the White House." It was a lesson, he said, which inculcated the duty of rising above one's fellows, when the lesson needed was the lesson of helping one's fellows to rise. What carried his audiences with him, however, was less the strength of his thought than the power of his self-forgetful earnestness. His voice was rich and clear, and the strength of his feeling vibrated in every word, in every part of the hall. At the dinner he reached the highest pitch of eloquence while picturing what the work of the Church would be if it became the work of its Master. The cheers that came from his labor audience at the name of Christ exceeded any expression of emotion the present writer has ever witnessed in a Christian congregation. Mr. Burns comes to this country as a delegate from Great Britain to the convention of the American Federation of Labor in Denver next week.

"War, famine, and pestilence all at once. Pity this poor country!" So writes from Bitlis, in Armenia, to a correspondent in this country, an American who has the best of opportunities for knowing the history of the recent events in Armenia. Other letters received in New York and Boston from correspondents of unimpeachable truthfulness substantiate in general the reports of the atrocities hitherto printed. Unpublished extracts from these letters now before us confirm the account given in *The Outlook* last week. The slaughter began with attacks upon the Armenian villages by the barbarous Kurds, in retaliation for some slight resistance made against their plundering. The Kurds then sent word to Constantinople that the Armenians were in rebellion, and Turkish troops were sent to the scene at once, with orders to suppress the revolt—orders which they well knew they must interpret to mean the extermination of whole villages, if they would please the Sultan. The letter from Bitlis quoted above declares that the estimate of six thousand men, women, and children killed is much too small; that ten thousand would be nearer the right number. A letter from Constantinople, dated October 31, says that at least twenty-seven villages were annihilated in Sassoun. The very latest reports received by the Secretaries of the American Board in Boston declare, upon the authority of Constantinople papers (which, of course, are subject to a severe censorship by the Porte), that the Sultan sent a special decoration to Zeki Pasha, who commanded the troops that committed the atrocities described. It is also alleged, on the same authority, that a silken banner was sent by the Sultan to each of four Kurdish chiefs who were prominent in the massacre. In view of these facts, it would seem idle for the Sultan to deny his responsibility for the slaughter of these thousands of Armenians. The Turkish Commission which is to be sent out to investigate the matter is not likely to return any account which would be displeasing to its royal master. The true story, however, is likely, in the end, to be brought out as representatives of England, of the United States, and probably of other countries, will accompany the Commission. It is cabled from Constantinople that President Cleveland first declined an invitation to send a representative, but afterward agreed to permit our Consul in Sivas to go in an independent capacity. Lord Kimberley, the Secretary of the English Foreign Office, has promised publicly to use every possible means to bring the truth to light. The Anglo-Armenian Association in England urges upon Lord Kimberley, with strict justice, the fact that England was made responsible, by the Berlin Treaty, for the adoption by Turkey of immediate reforms in Armenia, and that nothing whatever will bring peace to that land and safety to

its Christian residents except the insistence by Great Britain upon the instant carrying out of these long-delayed reforms.

The events of the past week at Tokio and at Washington have shown that Marshals Yamagata and Oyama are not more skillful as commanders than are Count Ito and his coadjutors quick-witted and tactful as statesmen. This is seen not only in their treatment of China, but of their own country as shown in the treaty sent on Friday of last week to the United States Senate. As we have already stated, Japan gains autonomy in both domestic and foreign relations, in judicial jurisdiction as well as in tariff duties. It will be remembered that so long ago as 1878 we, alone of nations, formally recognized the exclusive power and right of Japan to adjust her customs tariff. That convention, though remaining a dead letter because the other Powers did not accept its provisions, has had, nevertheless, a great moral influence in supporting the Mikado's just claims. It has been feared that the question of Japanese immigration might prove a stumbling-block in the Senate, but that is apparently disposed of by a law of Japan forbidding immigration to an unwelcoming country. It is an interesting coincidence that, on the very day when Secretary Gresham sent this treaty to the Senate, he exchanged with Minister Yang Yu ratifications of the new immigration convention between the United States and China. This convention is to remain ten years in force, and longer unless six months before the expiration of that time notice of its termination shall be given by either party. Chinese immigration here is prohibited, except that any registered Chinese laborer who has a wife, child, or parent here, or property to the value of a thousand dollars, or debts of like amount pending settlement, may return to the United States. Other exceptions are those of Chinese subjects who are officials, teachers, students, merchants, or travelers. It is agreed that the Chinese in the United States shall have all possible protection, but not the right to become naturalized citizens. China's right to enact similar laws to our Chinese registration act is recognized.

The Chinese are now menaced both behind and before. A serious outbreak is reported at Wu-Hu, on the Yangtse. It is also rumored that foreign ships have gone up that river to the scene of disturbance. At Tientsin there is much anxiety, not so much from fear of the enemy as from the arrival of disbanded troops, who are ready for any mischief. A late dispatch informs us that "the British war-ship *Daphne* has left the fleet at Chifu for Tientsin, taking with her a guard of fifty marines." In Manchuria the Chinese have not only been outfought but outmaneuvered, and the mortification at their want of leadership is taking strange freaks. A memorial has been presented to the throne by a hundred and twenty high officials, charging Li Hung Chang with corruption, peculation, and deception, averring that he rejoices at the Japanese victories. Even Prince Kung does not escape. The two statesmen, together with the Taotai, Wu, and the Commander of Port Arthur, are alleged to be guilty of high treason in selling State secrets to the enemy. Whether these things be true or not, one thing certainly is, and is admirably expressed by the London "*Spectator*:" "Defeat by Japan may be, for aught any European knows, the very blow which the Chinese required to startle them from their slumber of ages, and to change their solidified self-conceit into a national pride which would at least forbid Governors to steal, and captains of men-of-war to go to sea without suf-